

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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Renée Zellweger

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2004

## NBA raps Artest with harshest penalty ever

Pacer out for season; 8 others suspended for brawl

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Ron Artest

## Five killed in hunting dispute

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Emergency personnel gather near the scene Sunday where a dispute among deer hunters over a tree stand erupted in a series of shootings that left five people dead and three injured near Hayward, Wis. The alleged gunman, Chai Vang, inset, from the Twin Cities area, was later arrested at the Rusk and Sawyer County line, according to Sawyer County sheriff's officials.

## Busch wins first Nextel Cup

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Kurt Busch looks up at his trophy after winning the 2004 Nextel Cup Championship on Sunday at the Homestead Miami-Speedway.

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Sept. 11 memorial:** The four living former presidents will be honorary leaders of the World Trade Center memorial project, New York Gov. George Pataki announced Monday.

Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton have all agreed to become honorary members of the board of the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation, Pataki said in remarks prepared for a luncheon of the Association for a Better New York.

Members of the board will be officially named next week.

"The memorial will be the centerpiece and our first priority in the rebuilding effort," the governor said in a statement.

The memorial, "Reflecting Absence," is slated to open in 2009.

**JFK conspiracy theory:** For years, Americans have viewed President John F. Kennedy's assassination through conspiracy-colored glasses. Writers, filmmakers and Web-site authors have blamed his death on a sinister network of shady operators: Cuba's Castro, the Mafia, the CIA — even Lyndon Johnson.

But two experts say new research shows Kennedy was killed Nov. 22, 1963, by two bullets fired by a lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald.

Relying on chemical, ballistic and statistical analyses, they say their work dispels more than 100 conspiracy theories tied to Kennedy's death. The work was published in last month's *Journal of Radioanalytical and Nuclear Chemistry*.

"It's preposterous on the face of it to believe that a mousy little guy with a \$12.95 rifle could bring down the leader of the free world," said Kenneth A. Mahan, a retired nuclear physicist of Rhode Island atmospheric chemistry.

### World

**NATO troops in Sarajevo:** NATO troops on Monday conducted an unannounced search of a home in a Sarajevo suburb, acting on suspicion that the owners might be aiding war crimes suspects, an alliance statement said.

Multinational forces searched the home of Milan and Milana Mladic in Kasino, a Bosnian Serb-controlled southwestern suburb of Sarajevo, "to investigate the possibility that these individuals were supporting war crimes suspects," the statement released in Sarajevo said.

The statement did not specify which war crimes suspects the individuals were suspected of supporting, but Bosnia's most wanted fugitive suspects are wartime leader of Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadzic and his top general, Ratko Mladic.

**Madrid bombing inquiry:** A parliamentary officer on Monday downplayed the importance of a recently disclosed cassette recording with potential evidence about the Madrid railway bombings, saying the information on the tape had already been well known to investigators.

Lt. Col. Jose Antonio Rodriguez Bolaigra was dismissed from his post in the parliamentary Civil Guard last week after news reports revealed that he took three weeks to hand over the tape to the judge investigating the March 11 attacks that killed 191 people and injured some 2,000. The train bombings were blamed on militants linked to al-Qaida.

**Arafat's medical records:** Freshly armed with Yasser Arafat's weighty medical dossier, his nephew on Monday pinned blame on Israel for the late Palestinian leader's death and refused to put an end to rumors of poisoning.

The files are inconclusive on the cause of Arafat's death and confirm that doctors found no known poisons, but "I believe the Israeli authorities are largely responsible for what happened," said Nasser al-Kidwa,



**Intentional flooding:** Water from the Colorado River is released Sunday from Glen Canyon Dam near Page, Ariz. The water, which flows into the Grand Canyon, was released by the Bureau of Reclamation in an effort to redistribute 800,000 tons of metric sediment to maintain ecosystems on the river, officials said.

who is also the Palestinian ambassador to the United Nations.

His accusation, at a Paris news conference two hours after French authorities gave him the files despite objections from Arafat's widow, could inflame suspicions among Palestinians that Israel was somehow to blame — if only by confining Arafat to his West Bank headquarters for the last three years of his life, as Al-Kidwa asserted.

The nephew acknowledged that he had not had time to read the 558-page file, plus X-rays, that he said would be provided to Palestinian leaders.

**Chavez forgives Spain:** Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said in an interview published Monday that he has forgiven Spain for the previous, conservative government's apparent support for the coup that removed him from power briefly in 2002.

"We have completely changed our position," Chavez told the newspaper *El Pais* on the second day of a three-day visit to Spain, referring to former prime minister Jose Maria Aznar's stance, seen as supporting the coup.

"But now that is a thing of the past because we look forward with much hope to strengthening relations between two peoples and two governments," he was quoted as saying.

Chavez has made Spain the first stop on a five-nation tour, and was to meet with Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero on Monday and again on Tuesday.

**Chinese airliner crash:** Investigators have found no evidence of terrorism or other "man-made destruction" in the crash of a Chinese airliner that exploded after takeoff and plunged into an ice-covered lake, killing 54 people, according to official reports Monday.

Divers searched the lake for the "black box" flight data recorders of the Bombardier CRJ-200 belonging to China Eastern Airlines. The plane was down Sunday after taking off from the northern city of Baotou on a flight to Shanghai.

Investigators sent from Beijing had not determined the cause of the crash but found no evidence of terrorism, state television said. The official Xinhua News Agency said they found no sign of other "man-made destruction."

**Kidnapped foreigners:** American and Afghan forces searching for three kidnapped Afghan workers smashed their way into houses in downtown Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, officials and witnesses said.

About 10 people were detained in the pre-dawn operation, but there was no indication that the three foreigners had been found.

A U.S. military spokeswoman, Lt. Col. Pamela Keeton, said the joint operation was "related to the hostage situation," but said she had no further details.

Security forces began the assault in the west of the city at about 4 a.m., using rockets to blast a hole in a wall surrounding the two-story home of a doctor working for the United Nations, witnesses said.

**Rescue in Darfur:** Aid workers fled into bush areas Monday to escape fierce clashes in Sudan's Darfur region before being rescued by an African Union helicopter and flown to safety, and aid agency officials said.

Kate Haiff, Sudan country director for Save The Children, UK, said 20 workers for her organization and some other people were airlifted from the Tavilla area, in North Darfur state, where fighting between rebels and Arab militia has raged since Sunday.

U.N. spokesman in Khartoum, George Somerville, said 45 people were airlifted to safety by an African Union helicopter after fleeing into bush areas following fighting Monday in Tavilla.

**Guantanamo Bay detainees:** About 25 people wearing yellow ribbons marched through central London to protest the incarceration of 12 Kuwaitis at Guantanamo Bay, including relatives of two prisoners.

The protesters marched down Fleet Street to the Old Bailey, London's central criminal court, to draw attention to what they say is the unjust imprisonment of Kuwaiti citizens.

"I am a father, speaking to every father in America, asking them to feel what we feel for not seeing our son for three years and not knowing how he's being treated," said Khalid al-Odah, whose son, Fawzi al-Odah, is a prisoner at Guantanamo.

**Afghanistan's disarmament:** One of Afghanistan's most powerful warlords has given up 45 tanks and a vast haul of ammunition, a U.N. official said Monday, boosting the country's belated disarmament drive.

Representatives of Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum handed over the tanks, all of them operational, at a ceremony in his northern stronghold of Shiberganah on Sunday, in a move that could help consolidate the authority of interim leader Hamid Karzai who won presidential elections last month.

A first batch of 330 soldiers from a militia division loyal to ethnic Uzbek leader Dostum also handed over their weapons, said Rick Grant, a spokesman for the U.N.-sponsored disarmament program.

Stories and photo from wire services

# U.S. death toll in Iraq for November hits 101

## At least 54 casualties resulted from battle to control Fallujah

The Associated Press

Three Marines who were wounded in action during the Fallujah offensive died over the weekend at American hospitals in Germany and the United States, the Pentagon said Monday, raising the U.S. military death toll in Iraq for November to at least 101.

Since the initial U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003, the only other month in which U.S. deaths exceeded 100 was last April, when insurgent violence flared and Marines fought fierce battles in Fallujah and Ramadi.

In Baghdad, gunmen on Monday assassinated a member of an influential Sunni cleric's group that has called for a boycott of national elections, just a day after Iraqi officials announced the balloting would be held Jan. 30 in spite of rising violence in Iraq.

The Pentagon said two Marines died Saturday at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. A third died Friday at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

Landstuhl is a hub for seriously wounded U.S. soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan, and officials last week said the flow of injured to the hospital jumped to about twice the normal rate after the battle for Fallujah began.

The official U.S. death toll for the Fallujah offensive, which began Nov. 7, has not been updated since Lt. Gen. John Sattler, commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said Nov. 18 that it stood at 51. But Monday's announced deaths mean the toll has risen to at least 54.

The Marines have suffered most of the Fallujah battle casualties. An exact number is not available because the Marines usually do not specify the city in which a casualty happened. Since Nov. 1, the Marines have had at least 69 deaths throughout Iraq — mostly in Fallujah. That is by far the deadliest month of the war for the Marines; their previous high was 52 last April.

Of the approximately 138,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, about 35,000 are Marines.



U.S. Army Lt. Dan Kearney, of the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry, calls his headquarters while searching for insurgents suspected of planting a roadside bomb in Mosul, Iraq, Sunday. U.S. and Iraqi forces in Mosul have been working to put down an uprising launched by guerrillas who seized police stations and other sites.

U.S. and Iraqi troops have been clearing the last of the resistance from Fallujah, the main rebel bastion stormed Nov. 8 in hopes of breaking the back of the insurgency before the election.

U.S. Marine Maj. Jim West said Sunday that American troops have found nearly 20 "atrocities sites" where insurgents imprisoned, tortured and murdered hostages. West said troops found rooms containing knives and black hoods, "many of them blood-covered."

The storming of Fallujah has heightened tensions throughout Sunni Arab areas, triggering a surge of clashes in Mosul, Beji, Samarra, Ramadi and elsewhere.

The government's announcement Sunday that elections were set for Jan. 30 reflected Iraqi and U.S. determination to hold the vote despite the persistent violence.

In Baghdad, Sheikh Faïd Mohamed Amin al-Faïdhi, a member of the Association of Muslim Scholars, was shot by gunmen at his home in northern Mosul.

The slaying could further alienate Iraq's Sunni Arab minority ahead of the Jan. 30 election. The association is already calling for a boycott of the vote, and if many Sunni heed its call, the legitimacy of the election could be deeply undermined.

Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said his government was determined to hold the election as scheduled.

Elsewhere Monday, a U.S. patrol that came under attack returned fire, killing two attackers in Hawija, about 150 miles north of Baghdad, according to witnesses. The U.S. military had no immediate confirmation.

The military said Monday a U.S. soldier died after he was wounded in an attack the night before in Baghdad.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,221 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 946 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, which was last updated Friday at 10 a.m. EDT.

The British military has reported 73 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,083 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 837 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ None reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ None reported.

# Military officers see need for bigger force in Iraq

By BRADLEY GRAHAM

The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — Senior U.S. military commanders in Iraq say it is increasingly likely they will need a further increase in combat forces to put down remaining areas of resistance in the country.

Convinced that the recent battle for Fallujah has significantly weakened insurgent ranks, commanders here have devised plans to press the offensive into neighborhoods where rebels have either taken refuge after fleeing Fallujah or were already deeply entrenched.

But the forces available for these intensified operations have become limited by the demands of securing Fallujah and overseeing the massive reconstruction effort there — demands that senior U.S. military officers say are likely to tie up a substantial number of Marines and Army troops for weeks.

"What's important is to keep the pressure on these guys now that we've taken Fallujah from them," a high-ranking U.S. military commander said, speaking on condition he not be named because of the sensitivity of the deliberations on adding

troops. "We're in the pursuit phase. We have to stay after these guys so they don't get their feet set."

The possibility that additional troops would be required to battle the insurgency in this critical period preceding the Iraqi elections has been signaled for weeks. The Pentagon took an initial step in this direction last month, ordering about 6,500 soldiers in Iraq to extend their tours by up to two months.

"No request [for more troops] has been received" from Central Command, Army Lt. Col. Barry Venable, a Pentagon spokesman, told *Stripes* Monday.

Troop levels in Iraq "are something that's constantly being looked at, at various levels, Venable said, but President Bush and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld "have stated time and time again that they will give commanders what they ask for," Venable said.

While accelerating the January deployment of the 3rd Infantry Division is "technically possible," it's unlikely, a Pentagon official said Monday, due to the complexities of moving such numbers of troops.

Such "perturbations" would be so massive that "it wouldn't be worth it," consider-

ing the relatively small amount of time on the ground the division's entry into Iraq would buy commanders, the official said.

With some fresh U.S. forces already arriving in Iraq as part of a long-scheduled rotation, and two newly trained Iraqi brigades due to start operating next month, U.S. military leaders had hoped to avoid further increases.

But over the past week, a closer assessment of the forces needed for the Fallujah recovery effort and future offensive operations revealed a gap in desired troop strength, at least over the next two or three months, according to several officers familiar with the issue.

The officers said the exact number of extra troops needed is still being reviewed but estimated it at the equivalent of several battalions, or about 3,000 to 5,000 soldiers. The number of U.S. troops in Iraq fell to nearly 100,000 last spring before rising to 138,000, where it has stayed since the summer.

To boost the current level, military commanders have considered extending the stay of more troops due to rotate out shortly, or accelerating the deployment of the 3rd Infantry Division, which is scheduled

to start in January. But a third option — drawing all or part of a brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division on emergency standby in the United States — has emerged as increasingly likely.

If airborne units were rushed to Iraq, commanders here said, they likely would not be used in offensive actions being planned, given their lack of heavy armor and their unfamiliarity with the targeted neighborhoods. Rather, they would take over policing and other functions in Baghdad's International Zone. That would free up seasoned units of the 1st Cavalry Division for such actions.

Much of the division's 2nd Brigade, which had been patrolling Baghdad, was shifted to Fallujah for the battle there earlier this month and remains unavailable for action elsewhere. This situation is the cause of much of the pressure for reinforcements.

To further bolster U.S. forces in the short term, commanders are considering extending the scheduled departure of the 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, which has been assigned to the Kirkuk area.

*Stripes* reporter Lisa Burgess contributed to this report from the Pentagon.

# Troops at FOB Wilson beat supply system

## 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalary Regiment unit cuts out middle man in Iraq for faster delivery

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Iraq** — Spoiled fruit, dead bread, stale snail mail.

Life isn't always so good for troops stuck at the end of a long supply line.

That's where soldiers from Troop C of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalary Regiment found themselves when they arrived last March at FOB Wilson, a little camp just south of Tikrit.

Everything they needed to live and fight a war — food, water, truck parts, ammunition, mail, toilet paper, and Stars and Stripes, to name a few — had to travel by truck through a long supply chain. It

snaked from the seaport in Kuwait through hubs in Tikrit and Balad to the squadron headquarters at Forward Operating Base MacKenzie before reaching Wilson.

Furthermore, not everything requested was making the entire journey to Wilson, with some items disappearing along the way.

"It's no one's fault," said Capt. Paul Krattiger, 31, of Albuquerque, N.M., the troop commander, "but that's the way the system works."

The leaders quickly realized they'd be short of everything unless they figured out the system.

First, Capt. Dan Baldi, Troop C's executive officer, and the noncommissioned officer-in-charge at the motor pool, Sgt. 1st

Class Brian Hanson, climbed in their trucks and visited nearby bases before the 4th Infantry Division units that preceded them went home. They snagged hundreds of leftover parts the 4th ID didn't want to haul home.

"The parts were there — you just had to do the legwork to go get them," said Baldi, 25, of New Milford, Conn.

Then they visited the logistics hub at Forward Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit — only 15 miles away, but three links up the supply chain.

They made friends with the soldiers from the support battalions who pushed out the mail, the food, the newspapers. Could they set aside C Troop's stuff if someone came to pick it up? Sure, no problem.

"We've tried to cut out the middleman," Baldi said.

Mail delivery time from the United States dropped from two weeks to one week. Stars and Stripes was a day or two old instead of a week old. Fruits and vegetables arrived still fresh.

Troop leaders say twisting the supply tail has paid dividends in morale. Of course, it means assembling a small convoy of trucks twice a week for the half-hour run to Speicher. In a way, it's a tribute to the flexibility of the Army system — and the ingenuity of the soldiers who have to live with that system.

"It works," said Hanson, 38, of Maquette, Iowa. "We make it work."

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Photos courtesy of Nicole Smith

Sgt. Nicole Smith, of the 121st Signal Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, holds the quilt she created during her off time in Iraq that commemorates those who worked there. One side of the quilt, left, has more than 100 panels; the other side, right, is signed by hundreds of soldiers who have been stationed in Iraq. The quilt was sold on eBay for \$9,500. That money will go to a 1st ID charity.

## War quilt raises money for 1st ID charity

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

**TIKRIT, Iraq** — A 1st Infantry Division soldier has auctioned off a quilt she sewed while serving in Iraq, raising money for a 1st ID charity.

Sgt. Nicole Smith, of the 121st Signal Battalion from Kitzingen, Germany, cut, pieced together, sewed and ironed the quilt between June and September while deployed to the division's headquarters in Tikrit, according to a 1st ID news release. She got some help from her mother in Marysville, Pa., and from other soldiers and some Iraqis who created some of the panels.

"I had planned on making the quilt before I came to Iraq," Smith said in an Army news release. "I wanted this to be a piece of history and something different, something a soldier made."

The 7-by-7 quilt included more than 100 panels, for each of the division's component units currently in Iraq as well as signature squares from senior officers and noncommissioned officers, Smith stated in an article on her Web site: [www.geocities.com/gikendra/memorialquilt.html](http://www.geocities.com/gikendra/memorialquilt.html).

According to information on the eBay Web site, [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com), the auction began Nov. 1 and ended on Nov. 11, Veterans Day. The quilt sold for \$9,500.

A 1st ID spokesman said via e-mail that John and Karen Wilson of Sonora, Texas, bought the quilt, after taking contributions from at least 25 members of their community. They plan to keep it for a time, then auction it and challenge other communities to do the same thing.

The proceeds of the auction will benefit the 1st Infantry Division Foundation, a tax-exempt, nonprofit charity based in Pennsylvania, Smith said on her Web site. Created in 1966 during the Vietnam War, its purpose is to offer college scholarship money to the children of 1st ID soldiers killed in action.

More than 50 children have lost a 1st ID parent during the Iraq war.

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## Brits may move in Iraq

**LONDON** — British troops may be moved around Iraq again to support U.S. forces, although the government has said it does not anticipate further moves, the British army's commanding officer said in an interview published Monday.

A British regiment recently was shifted from Basra in southern Iraq to a sector near Baghdad, to relieve U.S. troops involved in the assault on Fallujah.

Gen. Mike Jackson said in an interview with The Independent newspaper that the need for similar redeployments might arise again.

"It is event-driven," he was quoted as saying.

Jackson noted that Britain's responsibility has mainly been around Basra.

"That is not to say, in the future, there may not be a military requirement of the coalition as whole for a British unit or units to be elsewhere," he was quoted as saying.

## Bomb injures soldier

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — Militants detonated a bomb near a U.S. patrol in eastern Afghanistan on Monday, injuring one American soldier and sparking a gun battle in which one insurgent died, the military said.

The skirmish occurred near Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, where weekend American raids on suspected al-Qaida compounds left four people killed.

Gunmen opened fire on the patrol after the detonation of the homemade bomb, a military statement said. "The patrol returned fire, killing one insurgent and capturing three more," it said.

The injured soldier was treated and returned to duty, it said.

The military said another bomb exploded near a patrol in neighboring Paktia province, damaging one vehicle but injuring no one.

Lt. Gen. David Barno, the top American commander here, said Sunday that al-Qaida suspects continued to slip across the border by Pakistan troops.

Barno told reporters on Monday that the military was in the middle of a series of operations against al-Qaida's "cell-linked network" in the Jalalabad area. He didn't elaborate.

From The Associated Press



# Conference on Iraq to come down hard on insurgents there

BY SALAH NASRAWI  
The Associated Press

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — The international conference on Iraq is moving toward giving strong backing for the government's war on insurgents as well as urging it to meet its opponents to try and persuade them to take part in the general elections.

The conference, which is scheduled to end Tuesday in this Red Sea resort, will not set a deadline for the withdrawal of the U.S.-led multinational force, as desired by France and some Middle Eastern countries, according to a copy of the draft final communiqué obtained by The Associated Press.

Iraq has asked Egypt to convene the conference in a bid to augment world support for its battle against insurgents and its plan to hold national elections. The two-day meeting brings together Iraq's neighboring states, plus Egypt and several other Arab countries. Also attending is China, as well as regional bodies such as the Group of Eight, United Nations, European Union, Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Syria's Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa had toured the

region seeking support for setting a deadline for the withdrawal of foreign forces. But the draft text leaves it to the Iraqi government to decide when foreign forces should depart, while at the same time reminding the U.S.-led multinational force that its mandate is "not open-ended."

For all its bloodshed, the insurgency enjoys a certain support in the Arab world as many Arabs see the multinational force as occupying Iraq. Nine Arab governments are represented at the 20-nation conference.

In a clear rebuff to popular sympathy for the insurgency, the conference is expected to conclude by affirming that it condemns "all acts of terrorism in Iraq and calls for the immediate cessation of all such acts in order to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people."

The draft communiqué says participants will also urge the interim government to deal firmly with terrorists according to international standards of law.

In what threatens to be the most contentious part of the conference, Iraq has said it will present plans for neighboring states to tighten their borders



Egyptian policemen stand in front of the Jolie Ville Congress Center at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on Monday. A conference focusing on Iraq's stabilization is taking place Monday and Tuesday.

against the infiltration of would-be insurgents and to share information about insurgent-support groups.

"We have documents and we have proof that indicate that some neighboring countries are contributing to increasing the violence in Iraq," Thair al-Naqeb, the spokesman for Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, told reporters on the eve of the conference.

"The Iraqi government will put pressure on the neighboring countries not to use their territories to support violence and terrorism in Iraq," al-Naqeb added.

The conference appears to put some pressure on the Iraqi government to do everything it can to persuade its opponents to take part in the elections, now set for Jan. 30. The draft text says: "The ministers encourage the interim government of Iraq to convene in Iraq, at the earliest date, before the general elections, representatives of the Iraqi political spectrum and civil society... with the view to encouraging broader participation in the general elections."

One opponent of the government, the Association of Muslim Scholars, has called for an election boycott.

eventual losers" and "a small minority."

"Certainly, some brothers and leaders in some neighboring nations did not do enough," Allawi said during the 20-minute interview at his office in Baghdad's Green Zone.

"They should have tried to help us at a time when we needed help," he said.

But he added: "We look forward to having positive and balanced ties with all our neighbors without exception. And we expect these nations and their leaders to take the same."

Syria has been criticized for allegedly not doing enough to stop Arab fighters from entering Iraq to join the insurgency. Allawi's government, as well as many Iraqis, blame non-Iraqi Arabs for a wave of bombings and attacks that have killed hundreds of people over the past year.

However, there is growing evidence to sug-

gest that while Arab fighters have taken part in such acts, most of those responsible for the violence have been Iraqis.

Iraq has said it will present plans at Sharm El-Sheikh for neighboring states to tighten their borders and to share information about insurgent support groups.

"We have documents and we have proof that indicate that some neighboring countries are contributing to increasing the violence in Iraq," Allawi's spokesman Thair al-Naqeb said on the eve of the two-day conference. "The Iraqi government will put pressure on the neighboring countries not to use their territories to support violence and terrorism in Iraq."

Iraqis in January will vote for a 275-member assembly whose main task would be to draft a permanent constitution for Iraq. If adopted in a referendum later in 2005, the document will be the basis for another general election later in 2005.

"The forces of darkness and terrorism will not benefit from this democratic experiment and will fight it," said Allawi. "But we are determined that this experiment succeeds."

## Saddam allies mull suing U.S. over 'war crimes'

BY JAMAL HALABY  
The Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — Members of Saddam Hussein's ousted regime are considering suing the Bush administration in the World Court for alleged war crimes in Iraq, the chief of the former dictator's legal team said Monday.

Zaid al-Khasasneh told The Associated Press that Saddam's Jordan-based defense team could not initiate legal action on its own against the U.S. government in the International Court of Justice in the Hague, Netherlands, because the tribunal refuses to hear any individual cases.

"Since the World Court doesn't accept cases from individuals, the lawsuit could be filed on behalf of members of President Saddam's government," al-Khasasneh said.

He declined to identify any former Iraqi officials who might bring such a suit, or say if they were in Iraq or abroad.

The World Court usually takes cases between states and it is unlikely that it would hear a case brought by former regime members. Bosnia sued Serbia for the 1995 genocide in Srebrenica, for example.

"We are toying with the idea of filing the lawsuit," said al-Khasasneh, who heads the legal team appointed by Saddam's wife, Sajida.

He said the latest American incursion into the troubled city of Fallujah, including the killing of an apparently unarmed and wounded Iraqi by a U.S. Marine at a mosque, was "one of scores of examples of American atrocities."

al-Khasasneh said the legal team was also encouraged by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's statements describing Iraq's invasion as "illegal."

In September, Annan told BBC television that the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003 "was not in conformity with the U.N. charter from our point of view. From the charter point of view, it was illegal."

The legal team has enlisted an unspecified number of attorneys from the United States, Britain and France to assist in the possible lawsuit, al-Khasasneh said. He said there were no lawyers from Arab countries, apparently because of sensitivity by Arab governments.

Jordanian government officials were not immediately available to comment.

Jordan, a key Arab ally of the United States that currently chairs the International Criminal Court, has turned down several American requests this year to extend immunity to American peacekeepers against prosecution for war crimes.

But government officials have said privately that Jordan has promised to pursue legal action against the peacekeepers.

U.S. authorities have refused to let the legal team or other lawyers see the Iraqi dictator, who was arrested in December 2003 and is being held in a U.S.-controlled jail.

## Allawi: Neighbors not helping Iraq improve security

By HAMZA HENDAWI

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's neighbors have not done enough to help Iraq tackle its security problems but the Baghdad government remains committed to the forging "balanced and positive" ties with countries of the region, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said Monday.

Allawi's remarks came in an interview with The Associated Press as delegates to an international conference on Iraq opened Monday at an Egyptian resort. The delegates expressed support for Allawi's government and for a nationwide election set for Jan. 30.

The 20-nation conference in the Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh, held at Allawi's request, is designed to rally support for the Iraqi government as it struggles against a Sunni-led insurgency that threatens to undermine the January vote in some parts of the country.

Allawi said his government was determined to hold the election as scheduled, describing those calling for a boycott as "the



Allawi

# Allawi orders mosque raid investigation

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Prime Minister Ayad Alawi has ordered an investigation into last week's U.S.-Iraqi raid of a major Sunni Muslim mosque in Baghdad, his office said Monday.

The raid Friday on the Abu Hanifa mosque left three people dead and was followed by a wave of attacks in several parts of Baghdad.

The raid enraged many in Iraq's Sunni Muslim minority, which already feels threatened by the U.S.-led attack on Fallujah and the arrest of several outspoken clerics.

A statement by the prime minister's of-

## Attack by U.S., Iraqi forces enraged Iraq's top Shiite cleric and many Sunni Muslims

fice said Allawi, a Shiite Muslim, conferred Sunday with Sunni officials on several issues, including the Abu Hanifa raid.

"The prime minister shared their [their] concern and said that although there had been reports of terrorist activity around the mosque, mistakes appeared to have been made and that he had ordered a full investigation," the statement said.

The Abu Hanifa mosque, which has long been associated with anti-American agita-

tion, is located in the Azamiyah district of Baghdad, a predominantly Sunni area. A day after the raid, U.S. and Iraqi forces fought running gunbattles with Sunni insurgents in Azamiyah and elsewhere in the city.

Iraq's leading Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, condemned the raid on Abu Hanifa, his spokesman said.

"The raid on Abu Hanifa mosque is unacceptable and we denounce and condemn

this action," spokesman Hamed al-Khafaf told Al-Manar, the television station of Lebanon's Shiite Hezbollah movement.

"Abu Hanifa mosque is a sacred place and a scientific university and they have to deal with it on this basis like other sacred places."

An official in al-Sistani's office in the Iraqi holy city Najaf, Sheikh Beesher, confirmed the ayatollah's condemnation of the raid.

The Iraqi government has warned that Islamic clerics who incite violence will be considered as "participating in terrorism." Some already have been arrested, including members of the Sunni clerical Association of Muslim Scholars.

## Deployment extension

LISBON, Portugal — Portugal could extend the stay of its police forces in Iraq beyond the current February limit if they're needed, Interior Minister Daniel Sanches said Monday.

Portugal's conservative government, a vocal supporter of U.S. policy in Iraq, hesitated before announcing earlier this month that the deployment of its police contingent would be extended.

Officials said they wanted assurances that January elections in Iraq would go ahead.

## Albanian army praised

TIRANA, Albania — The Albanian army unit in the Iraqi city of Mosul has not suffered any injuries in a string of recent attacks by insurgents, its commander said in comments published Monday.

The small Balkan country, a staunch supporter of the U.S.-led war in Iraq, has deployed 71 noncombat troops to guard the airport and its surroundings in Mosul.

Albania has sent four contingents of troops to Iraq since April last year, and are considering boosting the number of troops to 120.

From The Associated Press

## Shiite cleric sends relief supplies to Fallujah



An Iraqi man loads humanitarian aid into a truck Monday in Baghdad's Sadr City, collected by Shiite clerics and bound for Fallujah, Iraq. Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, top Iraqi Shiite cleric ordered Monday to send relief supplies to Fallujah. This is the first time al-Sistani sent humanitarian aid to Fallujah after the end of major battles in the city.

## Iraqi oil export and production increase

The Associated Press

BASRA, Iraq — Oil production and exports in southern Iraq reached its highest point this month since the U.S.-led invasion started March 2003, the director general of the state-owned South Oil Company said in a news conference Monday.

Jabbar Ali Al-Luabi said that oil production and exports reached 2.3 million barrels a day, which is the highest rate since the war in Iraq began last spring. He said that the normal daily rate is 2 million barrels.

"The oil exports in the south is flooding and will not stop and if it stopped it will be an exception," al-Luabi said.

Despite the deteriorating security situation, al-Luabi said that the production of the oil field east of Qumrah has reached 350,000 barrels a day while the Majnoon field is producing 500,000 barrels a day and "we are aiming to achieve 100,000 barrels a day by the end of the year."

The Majnoon field was the target of numerous acts of sabotage and looting that swept the area after the fall of Baghdad in April.

To protect oil pipelines, wells and fields, a security company will begin working shortly to protect the oil infrastructure in the north, central and south of Iraq, he said.

The fear of sabotage has been a main concern for the Iraqi oil industry and the U.S.-led coalition since the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein was toppled in April last year. Saddam's followers and foreign fighters, mostly from Arab countries, have staged numerous attacks on Iraqi oil facilities.

# Reporter speaks out about Marine's fatal shooting

BY EDWARD HARRIS

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The NBC journalist who filmed the fatal shooting of an apparently injured and unarmed Iraqi by a U.S. Marine in southern Iraq has written on his Web site that the wounded man had no sudden movements before he was shot.

Before the opening of the Nov. 8 assault on the rebel-held city, Marine commanders told infantrymen that the rules of engagement allowed for use of deadly force against men of military age deemed holding hostile intent, even if the enemy didn't fire on the Marines first.

In a posting on his Web blog dated Sunday, Kevin Sites, a freelancer on assignment for NBC, wrote that he didn't see the wounded Iraqi make any movement before the Marine shot him — but that only the Marine can explain his mental state before the shooting.

"Through my viewfinder I can see him (the Marine) raise the muzzle of his rifle in the di-

rection of the wounded Iraqi. There are no sudden movements, no reaching or lunging," Sites wrote.

"However, the Marine could legitimately believe the man poses some kind of danger. Maybe he's going to cover him while another Marine searches for weapons. Instead, he pulls the trigger. There is a small splatter against the back wall and the man's leg slumps down," Sites wrote.

"Wall he's dead now," says another Marine in the background.

"I was not watching from a hundred feet away. I was in the same room," Sites writes. "Aside from breathing, I did not observe any movement at all."

The U.S. military is investigating the Nov. 13 incident by a member of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

Military investigators also are looking into whether more than one wounded insurgent was shot in the mosque. Two other men visible on the NBC video appear to be suffering from what the network described in a broadcast as fresh and fatal gunshot wounds.

Two other men are seen slumped by a wall. Sites' account said the men, who were hurt in the previous day's attack, had been shot again by the Marines.

Earlier in the footage, as the Marine unit that Sites was accompanying approached the mosque, gunfire can be heard from inside.

Sites writes in his Web diary that the Marine, angry moments before firing, quickly became apologetic when he realized the incident had been caught on camera.

"The Marine who fired the shot became aware that I was in the room. He came up to me and said, 'I didn't know sir — I didn't know.' The anger that seemed present just moments before turned to fear and dread."

Sites — a well-built, gaunt man who jogged around U.S. military bases near Fallujah that frequently came under mortar and rocket attack — wrote that perceptions of him as an agitator for peace are incorrect.

Sites wrote that he considered destroying the tape of the incident, rather than sharing it with the pool that shared footage among networks covering the fight in Fallujah.

# Protest draws 16,000 at U.S.-run military school

## 20 arrested at annual demonstration at Fort Benning

BY ELLIOTT MINOR

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ga. — At least 20 people were arrested while protesting a U.S.-run military school for Latin Americans, some of whose graduates protesters claim later committed civil rights abuses including murder.

Those arrested Sunday were among about a record 16,000 people who demonstrated outside the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Fort Benning, calling for the school to be shut down.

Charges ranged from trespassing to wearing a mask, a rarely invoked 1951 law originally aimed at the Ku Klux Klan, whose members wore white hoods to conceal their identities.

"We gather to revive the memory of those who have died at the hands of this combat school," said the Rev. Roy Bourgeois, a Catholic priest. "How do you teach democracy behind the barrel of a gun? If they are so concerned about teaching democracy, then why not close this school and send these students to some of our fine universities."

Bourgeois is head of SOA Watch, which monitors the institution formerly known as The School of the Americas. The group has staged annual protests there since 1990.

SOA Watch and other critics allege the school's graduates have committed murder, rape and tor-

ture, including the murders of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter in El Salvador in 1989.

Seventeen of the arrests Sunday came after some protesters scaled chain-link fences to gain entry onto military property, said Bill Quigley, legal adviser for the protest group.

The school trains soldiers, police and government officials. SOA Watch claims some of its graduates were involved in a string of human rights abuses in the 1980s and even now exploit the people and resources of Latin America.

As recently as October, a former Colombian army officer who graduated from the school had been accused of murdering a state official while still a member of the military. Maj. David Hernandez, who became the head of a paramilitary group, was killed in a clash with army troops.

Defense officials have steadfastly disputed the group's claims about the school. In the past, Army officials have held news conferences to deny allegations, but days before Sunday's event the Army said it would have no comment.

Organizers of the protest said concern about the war in Iraq and President Bush's re-election boosted attendance at this year's event.

Oscar-winning actress Susan Sarandon addressed the group Saturday, and Martin Sheen, who plays the president in NBC's "West Wing" TV series, delivered a fiery speech Sunday.



Brian DeRouen, center, a graduate student from the University of Dayton, is handcuffed Sunday morning by police after he trespassed onto Fort Benning, Ga., as part of the annual School of the Americas Watch protest. At least 20 people were arrested while protesting the U.S.-run military school for Latin Americans, some of whose graduates they claim later committed civil rights abuses, including murder.

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# Vilseck student finds support in face of cancer

Fellow high school students, community rally around high school senior during illness

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

**O**n what was supposed to be the first day of his senior year of high school, Roger Connolly was in an Amberg hospital being tested for cancer.

Doctors found a malignant tumor on one of his testicles, and soon after Connolly was put under the knife. Then came chemotherapy treatments, which ended on his 18th birthday.

He ended up missing the first quarter of school and losing all his hair.

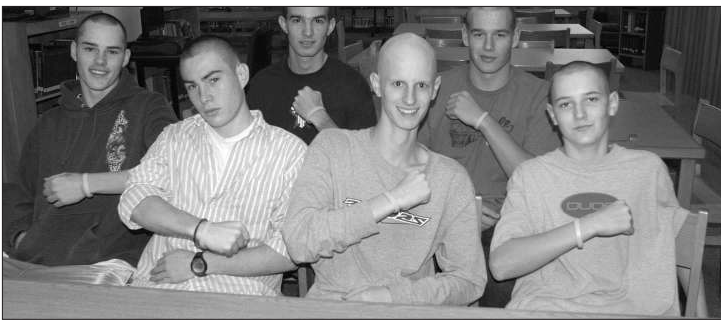
But when he returned to Vilseck High School two weeks ago, some of his friends went out of their way to make him feel right at home. Five students, including four of his friends from the soccer team, shaved their heads the day before Connolly returned to school.

It was a tough decision. "We were all going to grow our hair out for our senior year," Connolly said. "I thought they might back out on the decision to shave their heads."

"We didn't want him to be the only bald kid in school," said Kevin Pollock, who was joined by Anthony Amabile, Bobby Bohn, Aaron Vernon and Matt Downs. "We wanted to be supportive of Roger, so he wouldn't feel alone."

But even in his absence, Connolly still was part of the school. The tennis team elected him team captain, even though his recovery didn't allow him to play. The senior class elected him vice president of the student council while he was in the hospital.

Members of the Vilseck commu-



RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

A group of Vilseck High School students show off their Lance Armstrong Foundation "LIVESTRONG" bracelets Friday at the school. The students are, left to right, Aaron Vernon, Anthony Amabile, Bobby Bohn, Roger Connolly, Kevin Pollock and Matt Downs. The group shaved their heads in support of Connolly, who was diagnosed with testicular cancer at the beginning of the school year.

nity sent him cards wishing him a speedy recovery.

"The community has been very supportive as a whole," Connolly said. "I got cards every day from friends, family and people I didn't even know."

Additionally, the school ordered several hundred "LIVESTRONG" bracelets, which are sold by the Lance Armstrong Foundation ([www.laf.org](http://www.laf.org)) to raise funds for cancer research. The bracelets sold out the day they arrived.

Connolly's battle with cancer has opened the eyes of the community to the illness.

"I came back and told everyone

in my classes what had happened," said his mother, Becky Connolly, an English, video production and drama teacher, who took time off to be with her son during his hospital stays. "It really has raised awareness in the community."

## Road to recovery

Roger Connolly said he first noticed a lump on one of his testicles during a regular self-exam.

His energy levels over the summer were very low, and he was taking naps several times a day. He went to the doctor after a sleepless night in which he experienced an

extreme, throbbing pain in his groin, he said.

A biopsy showed that the lump was a malignant tumor. Tests showed that the cancer had metastasized to his abdomen. After the cancerous testicle was removed, Connolly went through two cycles of aggressive chemotherapy.

Now, he is slowly recovering from a cold that "knocked him down," because his immune system was weakened by the chemotherapy, Becky Connolly said.

Pretty heavy stuff for a teenager to deal with, but Roger Connolly is upbeat and confident that he has beat his cancer.

Doctors told him after the surgery and chemotherapy that the cancer appeared to be gone, but he won't know for sure until he goes in for his three-month check-up in January.

"I'm a little worried about January," he said. "You can never be too sure, and there's always a chance it could come back. If I feel these doctors know what they are doing, and they said it should be no problem."

"The CT scan (after the chemotherapy) showed that it was totally gone, so that helps keep my hopes high for the check-up."

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# Mannheim community pays tribute to GI killed in Iraq

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

Just two weeks ago, Pfc. Cole William Larsen was living life to the fullest.

On Monday, mourners gathered in Mannheim, Germany, to remember the 19-year-old soldier, who was killed Nov. 12 in a vehicle accident in Iraq.

Larsen, a gunner for the 1st Platoon, 3rd Squad, 272nd Military Police Company, 95th Military Police Battalion at Taylor Barracks, died in Baghdad while driving to Camp Volunteer with his security team, according to a statement issued by the Mannheim community. His armored support vehicle was clipped by another unidentified vehicle and rolled over several times. He was pronounced dead on the scene.

He had come to Mannheim directly out of the Army's military police job training and deployed to Iraq three months later.

At the midway point in his deployment, Larsen, a native of Santa Clarita, Calif., made a surprise visit to his family during Rest and Recuperation leave.

"We went to the dunes and rode quads, we went to shoot skeet, he kept his friends tied up with visits, and spent a little bit of time with almost all the family," Larsen's father, Ballard T. Larsen, said in a telephone interview Monday. "We're fortunate



SEIG HEPPNER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Col. James B. Brown, commander of the 18th Military Police Brigade, pays his respects at a service for Pfc. Cole William Larsen Monday at Coleman Barracks, Mannheim, Germany.

because we got to see him at home doing all the things he liked to do."

It was the last time the Larsen family would see their soldier.

Because Larsen spent such a small amount of time at Taylor Barracks before deploying, only the soldiers he deployed with knew the young trooper. That made the impact of his death all the more painful to

Mannheim community members who gathered for the service at Benjamin Franklin Village Chapel, because they never got the chance to know him better, said Raphael Ereditia, a spokesman for 293rd Base Support Battalion.

Larsen is the first casualty from the Mannheim military community and though the people who knew him best are still de-

pressed, Ereditia said people could get an impression of who Larsen was from his comrades.

According to Ereditia, Sgt. Brett Browning, Larsen's noncommissioned officer in charge, described his soldier as a "simple country boy" even though he was from California. He was attached to the great outdoors; he loved motorcycles and always liked to talk about dirt bikes in particular.

Browning said Larsen also loved to tinker with cars and was supposed to help his father repair his Ford truck as soon as he got back to California. Larsen was very attached to his family and had an exceptional bond with his father, according to the NCOIC.

Browning immediately made arrangements to be with the Larsen family in California after the accident.

The Army posthumously awarded Larsen with a Bronze Star, the Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terror Service Medal, according to Ereditia.

"Our family has been around for a long time," the father said with both sadness and pride from his Santa Clarita home. "We had Larsen fighting from the Revolutionary War all the way through."

There has been Larsen fighting and dying for this country since its infancy."

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: [inigo@mail.strips.osd.mil](mailto:inigo@mail.strips.osd.mil)



## IN THE STATES

## FBI: Most hate crimes in '03 racially driven

BY CURT ANDERSON  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There were 7,400 hate crimes in the United States last year, more than half of them motivated by racial prejudice most often against black people, the FBI reported Monday.

Hate crimes motivated by anti-black racial bias totaled 2,548 in 2003, more than double such crimes against all other racial

groups combined. There were 3,150 black victims in these cases, including four who were murdered, according to the annual FBI report.

The overall total of 7,489 hate crimes reported in 2003 was slightly above the number reported in 2002. Nearly two-thirds of the crimes involved in such cases are intimidation, vandalism or property destruction.

But there are also hundreds of violent crimes, including 14 murders. There were

more than 2,700 assaults, 444 bias-related robberies, burglaries and thefts, and 34 arson incidents.

The report shows that crimes categorized as anti-Islamic remained at the about same level in 2003 — 149 crimes — as the year before. There had been a spike in such crimes immediately after the 2001 terror attacks, helping drive the overall hate crime number much higher that year.

By far the most hate crimes based on religion were directed at Jews, with 927 incidents in 2003, about the same as in 2002.

The report also found more than 1,200 hate crimes based on sexual orientation, including 783 against gay men. That included six murders.

The FBI hate crimes report is drawn from information submitted by more than 11,900 law enforcement agencies around the country.

## Rains drench parts of southeast Texas

The Associated Press

EL CAMPO, Texas — Rain doused already saturated areas of southeast Texas on Monday after as much as 15 inches during the weekend forced hundreds of people from their homes and closed highways.

No injuries were reported. Heavy rain also fell early Monday in the Austin area, flooding city streets and highways and stalling cars.

The Colorado River, which flows through the city and into southeast Texas, was swollen out of its banks in places, and authorities warned residents to take precautions.

About 250 people were evacuated from their homes Sunday in El Campo.

Mayor Randy Collins said 50 to 100 homes, as well as some businesses, were flooded Sunday.

"I've been here 31 years and this is the worst I've ever seen it," said El Campo Police Chief Jim Elliott.

El Campo resident Ray Hillier

## Rare snow hits Calif.

LOS ANGELES — An unusual type of storm nicknamed an "insider slider" blanketed Southern California mountains with up to 3 feet of snow and even coated desert areas with white.

Children built snowmen and had snowball fights in low-lying towns such as Murrieta in Riverside County, where Chris Sousounis said he was told it would never snow when he moved there from Chicago. "Somebody lied," he said as he swept piles of snow off his pickup.

The weekend storm was tapering off Monday, although an additional 6 inches fell in some mountain communities.

From wire reports

said 7 inches of water flowed into his home.

"I just watched," Hillier, 62, told the Houston Chronicle. "What could you do?"



BUSTER DEAN, THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE/AP

Motorists navigate through flood waters Sunday after severe weather moved through the area near El Campo, Texas.

El Campo, with about 11,000 residents, is located 72 miles southwest of Houston.

Sections of U.S. Highway 59 re-

mained closed Monday because of flooding, said El Campo police dispatcher Donna Hubenak.

Up to 15 inches of rain fell across parts of Wharton and Jackson counties.

Eighteen people had to be removed from their homes in Ganado in Jackson County, Mayor Fred Rickaway said.

Emergency workers in the town of some 1,900 residents used fire trucks to carry people through the water that Rickaway described as a little more than knee-deep.

## Peterson penalty phase set for Nov. 30

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF  
The Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — The judge in the Scott Peterson murder trial denied defense motions Monday for a new jury and a new venue, and rescheduled the penalty phase of the case to begin Nov. 30.

The penalty phase had been set to begin Monday, 10 days after he was found guilty of first-degree murder for killing

Laci Peterson and a second-degree murder for killing her fetus. Jurors must choose between a life sentence or execution.

"We're going to have to go with this jury," Judge Alfred A. Delucci said, rejecting defense claims that the ousting of two jurors after deliberations began would taint the outcome. As for moving the case elsewhere, the judge said it would be impossible. "Where could I send this case in the state of California that hasn't been inundated with the media coverage?"

Jurors are expected to hear testimony much more laden with emotion than they did during the five-month guilt phase of his trial.

The penalty phase is like a miniature trial, absent most of the typical rules of evidence. Unlike the guilt phase of a trial, it allows jurors to hear pleas for leniency and heartfelt recollections of the victim.

No testimony was expected from one of the prosecution's star witnesses, Peterson's former mistress, Amber Frey. Wiretapped telephone calls between Peterson and Frey played for jurors portrayed the 32-year-old former fertilizer salesman as a habitual liar and a cad.



Peterson

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# 5 dead in dispute over Wis. hunting spot

BY JOSHUA FREED  
The Associated Press

BIRCHWOOD, Wis. — A Hmong deer hunter who apparently intruded on private property killed five other hunters who had been staying in a nearby cabin and wounded three more during the opening weekend of deer season, authorities said.

A 36-year-old man was arrested Sunday afternoon when he came out of the woods, sheriff's officials said. Two of the wounded were in critical condition Monday.

Deputy Jake Hodgkinson identified the suspect as Chai Vang, but would give no details. Vang is from St. Paul, Minn., said Paul Schnell, a spokesman for the St. Paul police department.

The shooting started when two hunters returning to their rural cabin saw the suspect in one of their hunting platforms in a tree, Chief Deputy Tim Zeigle said. Hunters often build platforms in trees to be able to view prey and shoot from a high angle.

Both of those hunters were wounded and one of them radioed friends at the nearby cabin. Other members of their group responded and they also were shot, he said.

"It's absolutely nuts. Why? Over sitting in a tree stand?" asked Zeigle.



Vang

Zeigle said the suspect was "chasing after them and killing them," with a SKS 7.62 mm semiautomatic rifle, a common hunting weapon. Wisconsin's statewide deer gun hunting season started Saturday and lasts for nine days.

About 20 shots were fired but it was unclear if any of the hunters had fired at the suspect or who might have shot first, Zeigle said. There was just one gun among the eight people killed or wounded, he said.

The dead included a teenage boy and a woman, and a father and son, Zeigle said. Some of the victims were shot more than once.

Authorities found two bodies near each other and the others were scattered over 100 yards.

The suspect, who did not have a compass, got lost in the woods and two other hunters, who did not know about the shootings, helped him find his way out, Zeigle said.

The man was arrested when he emerged from the woods and a Department of Natural Resources officer recognized the deer license on his back from a description given by one of the shooting victims, Zeigle said.

The man was out of ammunition, he said. Two of the injured hunters were in critical condition Monday. A third was in stable condition.

Hunter Bill Wagner, 72, was about two miles away near Deer Lake with a party of about 20 other hunters when they heard sirens, planes and helicopters and discovered roads in the area had been barricaded.



A police officer interviews witnesses near the scene where a dispute among deer hunters over a tree stand in northwestern Wisconsin erupted in a series of shootings that left five people dead and three injured Sunday near Hayward, Wis. The alleged gunman, a man from the Twin Cities area, was later arrested at the Rusk and Sawyer County line, according to Sawyer County sheriff's officials.

"When you're hunting you don't expect somebody to try to shoot you and murder you," Wagner said. "You have no idea who is coming up to you."

"We're all old, dyed-in-wool hunters," he said. "We wouldn't go home because of this, but we will keep it in our minds. We're not forgetting it."

## Camden, N.J., rated most dangerous city

Detroit, Atlanta, St. Louis and Gary, Ind., round out dubious distinction's top five

BY BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI  
The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — The Camden has been named the nation's most dangerous city, snatching the top spot from Detroit, according to a company's annual ranking based on crime statistics.

Officials in Camden, which was ranked third last year, downplayed the dubious designation Sunday, saying many steps have been taken to reduce crime in the city.

"We must give our people jobs,

training and opportunity," said City Councilman Ali Sloan-Ed, who pointed out that Camden's poverty is an important contributing factor to its high crime rate.

Atlanta, St. Louis and Gary, Ind., rounded out the top five in the most dangerous city rankings, which was to be released Monday by Morgan Quitno Corp.

The company publishes "City Crime Rankings," an annual reference book that will be published next month. Detroit fell to second in this year's list.

However, company president

Scott Morgan told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that he had been unaware that St. Louis police ranked its 5,760 crimes over their 2003 crime data.

Provided with the correct data, Morgan found that St. Louis would have switched places with Atlanta.

The news wasn't all bleak for New Jersey.

The state's Brick Township was rated the second-safest city for the third straight year, behind only Newton, Mass., while the Garden State's Dover Town-

ship was ranked tenth. The other communities in the top five were Amherst, N.Y., which had been ranked as the safest city for the past four years, followed by Mission Viejo, Calif., and Clarkstown, N.Y.

The rankings look at the rate for six crime categories: Murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and auto theft. It compares 350 cities with populations of 75,000 or more that reported crime data to the FBI. Final 2003 statistics, released by the FBI in October, were used to determine the rankings.

## Bush, GOP working to get intel bill passed

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush and Republican congressional leaders are preparing another bid in December to overcome conservative Republican opposition and pass an intelligence community overhaul designed as a response to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"When I get home, I look forward to getting it done," Bush told a news conference Sunday after an economic summit in Santiago, Chile. He promised to work with Republican leaders in Congress who are preparing to return Dec. 6 for another try.

Blocked by resistance from two committee chairmen and conservative Republicans in the House of Representatives, lawmakers turned back a last-minute chance Saturday to pass the stalled legislation to create a new national intelligence director and national counterterrorism center. Based on the Sept. 11 commission recommendations, the overhaul is supposed to help the intelligence community track terrorist threats and was one of the biggest legislative priorities of this year.

Despite Republican control of Congress, Bush hasn't been able enlist enough support House Republicans.

## Pre-9/11 terrorism memo

PHOENIX — The FBI agent who wrote a memo warning that terrorists were training at flight schools before the Sept. 11 attacks said concerns over racial profiling may have prevented officials from acting on his intelligence.

Ken Williams' findings in his now-famous July 2001 memo were based on investigations of Arizona aviation students tied to al-Qaida. At the time, he recommended the State Department coordinate with the FBI to provide information on flight students from Middle Eastern countries.

## Three die in Houston jet crash

HOUSTON — All three people aboard a private jet died Monday morning when it clipped a light pole and crashed a minute away from landing in a thick fog at Houston's Hobby Airport. The jet had been due to pick up former President Bush as a passenger, his office said.

The jet was approaching the runway when

a wing clipped a light pole along the heavily traveled Stan Houston Tollway. The aircraft crashed just south of the tollway in a southeast Houston field, said Roger Smith, a spokesman for the Houston Airport System.

Robert Randall, operations manager with the plane's owner, Jet Place Inc. of Tulsa, Okla., would not name the downed flight's crew but said there were two male pilots and a female flight attendant.

## Trump's casino empire in trouble

NEWARK, N.J. — Donald Trump's casino empire filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection after months of negotiations with bondholders over restructuring a crushing \$1.8 billion debt.

Trump Hotels & Casino Resorts and numerous related operations filed for protection from its creditors Sunday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Camden, N.J.

In a telephone interview Monday, Trump denied the bankruptcy was a setback. The

Chapter 11 filing frees a company from the threat of creditors' lawsuits while it reorganizes its finances.

"I don't think it's a failure, it's a success," Trump said.

## University gets \$44 million gift

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The founder of an information technology company and his diabetic wife are giving \$44 million to the University of Michigan for creation of a diabetes research center.

The donation, being announced Monday, comes from Bill Brehm of McLean, Va., a university graduate, and his wife, Dee Brehm, 75, founded SRA International, an information science company in Fairfax, Va. His wife, 74, has Type 1, or insulin-dependent, diabetes.

"We want to do something for the new diabetics, for these babies and infants just diagnosed," Dee Brehm said. "I don't want them to undergo the long-term regimen I've had."

From wire reports

# Killing sharks for fins opposed

BY CAIN BURDEAU  
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — More than 60 countries agreed to ban the killing of sharks for their fins in the Atlantic Ocean, a move that conservationists hope will increase protection of threatened species around the world.

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas drew up the agreement at its annual meeting being held in New Orleans on Sunday. The group, which oversees management of many Atlantic fish species, acted on a proposal by the United States.

The agreement bans the practice known as shark finning in which fishermen slice off a shark's fin and throw the carcass overboard. Shark fins are a delicacy in Asian countries and command high prices. Shark fin soup sells for more than \$100.

"This is the first international finning ban in the world, so it is quite a significant conservation step forward, and the environmental community is most grateful for the United States' leadership," said Sonja Fordham, a shark conservation specialist with The Ocean Conservancy.

ICCAT, which includes 63 nations, also agreed to collect more data on shark catches and identify nursery areas.

The United States had called for a reduction of the number of fishing vessels that hunt sharks, but ICCAT left that unchanged. According to the United Nations, more than 100 million sharks are killed each year. A study last year by Dalhousie University marine scientists estimated that 90 percent of the world's large fish — including sharks — have disappeared since 1950.

"Sharks are exceptionally slow growers and they take many decades to recover once they're depleted. They warrant extra cautious management," Fordham said.

There are few international restrictions on shark fishing and trade. The United States banned shark finning in the Atlantic in 1993 and in the Pacific Ocean in 2002.

ICCAT has a good track record in management, said Susan Buchanan, a spokeswoman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. She pointed out that it took only four years for the North Atlantic swordfish population to rebound thanks to measures imposed by ICCAT in 1999.

Officials and conservationists plan to put pressure on organizations to manage and regulate the world to impose similar measures.

Fordham said South Korea was the only country to resist the ban on shark finning and that it has six months to consider whether it will sign the agreement.



Former U.S. Sen. David Pryor, right, speaks Friday as actress Mary Steenburgen and her husband, actor Ted Danson, listen at the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service, on the grounds of the Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, Ark. Pryor, Steenburgen and Danson were honoring 53 Arkansas high school students who won an essay contest on "Public and Community Service: My Experience."

# Clinton school gets day in star-powered spotlight

BY DAVID HAMMER  
The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Employees at the Clinton School of Public Service could have been forgiven for feeling a little overshadowed last week.

Not only is their building — a renovated 19th-century train station — physically dwarfed by the nearby Clinton Presidential Library and Museum, but it seemed a mere afterthought during Thursday's formal dedication of the former president's archives.

The next day, however, the latest addition to the University of Arkansas had its day in the spotlight. Actors Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen, who have ties to the state, came to offer their own star power.

The award-winning screen couple helped Clinton School Dean David Pryor, a former Arkansas governor and U.S. senator, hold the first event in the school's expansive atrium: the presentation of a youth volunteer award and the honoring of 53 Arkansas high school juniors and seniors who won an essay contest.

"I love the one-two punch of the library and the school," said Danson, a clean-water activist whose father was a museum director.

"The museum captures eight years in the life and politics of Bill Clinton, and then next to it is a building all about the creating [of] future public servants. It's brilliantly conceived," he said.

"The museum captures eight years in the life and politics of Bill Clinton, and then next to it is a building all about the creating [of] future public servants. It's brilliantly conceived," he said.

As a part of the public university system, the school depends on state funding, which has rankled some legislators. But, Kenneth Tolo, executive director of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, said that misses the point.

"Yes, the Clinton School benefits from the proximity to the Clinton library, but it is its own entity, a purely academic entity," he said.

Next fall, the Clinton School will offer what it boasts will be the world's first master's degree in public service — as opposed to more common public policy or public programs.

Students will have access to entire volumes through an online library, along with Clinton's official White House papers at the presidential archives just a few feet across the Scholars Garden.

The archives contain 80 million documents, some of which are scheduled to be released under federal law in 2006. Clinton has promised to open 100,000 pages of private domestic policy advice a year early, in January or February.

"Think about a school without the library's archives — it's just another school," said Associate

# Library cafe to serve first lady's cookies

The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — When the cafe at former President Clinton's presidential library opened Monday, the public finally had the chance to enjoy the chocolate chip cookies his wife didn't stay home to make.

The cookies came from the same recipe Hillary Rodham Clinton, now a U.S. senator from New York, rolled out after making much-revealed comments on her lack of domestic skills during Bill Clinton's first run for the White House in 1992.

"I've done the best I can to lead my life," Clinton said about her high-powered lifestyle in an interview at the time. "I suppose I could have stayed home and baked cookies and had teas."

The comment caused Republicans and others to complain that she was belittling stay-at-home moms. She ended up baking her chocolate chip cookies as an apology of sorts.

The recipe was also included in the Clinton Center Cookbook, which was sold last year to help raise money for the \$165 million library construction project.

Dean Tom Bruce. "Now, think of the library showing the Clinton history without preparing another generation of people for the central theme of his presidency — public service."

Overlooking the atrium are the offices of the Clinton Foundation, which built the library, museum and school and pursues Clinton's post-presidential agenda of AIDS prevention and care, religious, racial and ethnic reconciliation, citizen service and minority business development.

The new school is already getting noticed. Hannah Key, 25, drove from her home in Georgia to present her candidacy for the first master's class. Her goal is to become U.S. secretary of state.

"I was planning to go to George Washington, but it stressed the more academic nature of policy and politics and it didn't appeal to me as much as the Clinton School," she said. "I'm a people person who wants to help the underprivileged. This school is more well-rounded."

# Lincoln's assassin's letter sells for \$68,000

BY JENNIFER PETER  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — A letter written by President Lincoln's assassin two months before the 1865 slaying sold at auction Sunday for a record \$68,000.

In the letter, dated Feb. 9, 1865, John Wilkes Booth asks a friend to send him a picture of himself "with cane & black cravat" — the one later used in his wanted poster.

The previous high for a Booth letter was \$38,000, according to Stuart Whitehurst, vice president of Skinner Inc. auctioneers.

The buyer was Joe Maddalena, a Beverly Hills-based historical document dealer. Maddalena, who bid by phone, said Booth "is the rarest American autograph."

"When he killed Lincoln, anybody who had any relationship with him burned their letters because they were so afraid they would be linked to him," Maddalena said. "There are only 300 known letters and he must have written thousands and thousands."

Whitehurst estimated that only 17 Booth letters remain in private hands. The letter was addressed to family friend Orlando Tompkins of Boston, an apothecary and partner of Boston Theatre.

Booth tells Tompkins he "will get any letter sent to Fords Theatre."

Booth was retrieving his mail at the theater on April 14, 1865, when he first heard that Lincoln would be attending "Our American Cousin" that evening. Booth, a Confederate sympathizer and former actor, returned during the play to assassinate the president.

"The fact that Lincoln had just essentially won the [Civil War] made the crime even more shocking," Whitehurst said. "So much of what he could have done to heal the nation was ahead of him."

Also on the block at the fine books and manuscript auction Sunday was memorabilia from President John F. Kennedy's personal doctor, Janet Graham Travell, the first woman to serve as White House physician. Kennedy began seeing her in 1965 for the back pain that plagued him throughout his adult life.

He said her treatments gave him "new hope for a life free from crutches if not from backache."

The autographed copy he gave her of his book, "Profiles in Courage," sold for \$5,500. The rocking chair, known as the "Kennedy Rocker," which served as the prototype for the specially made chairs used by the president's back pain, sold for \$11,000.

Travell's White House medical bag sold for \$2,700.

Kennedy was assassinated 41 years ago Monday.





## OPINION

## A writer's 'war crime,' a Marine's 'survival'

The rule of the thumb for the last century or so has been that for a guerrilla force to remain viable, it must inflict severe casualties on the forces of the government it is fighting for each casualty it sustains,

Jack Kelly



says former Canadian army officer John Thompson, managing director of the MacKenzie Institute, a think tank that studies global conflicts.

By that measure, the resistance in Iraq had a bad week [last week], American and Iraqi government troops killed at least 1,200 fighters in Fallujah, and captured 1,100 more. Those numbers will grow as mop-up operations continue.

These casualties were inflicted at a cost (so far) of 43 coalition dead (38 Americans), and just over 300 wounded, of whom about a quarter have returned to duty.

"That kill ratio would be phenomenal in any [kind of] battle, but in an urban environment, it's revolutionary," said retired Army Lt. Col. Ralph Peters, perhaps America's most respected writer on military strategy. "The rule has been that [in urban combat] the attacking force would suffer between a quarter and a third of its strength in casualties."

The victory in Fallujah was also remarkable for its speed, Peters said. Speed was necessary, he said, "because you are fighting not just the terrorists, but a hostile global media."

Fallujah ranks up there with Iwo Jima, Inchon and Hue as one of the greatest triumphs of American arms, though you'd have a hard time discerning that from what you read in the newspapers.

The swift capture of Fallujah is taxing the imagination of Arab journalists and — sadly — our own. How does one portray a remarkable American victory as if it were of little consequence, or even a defeat?

For CNN's Walter Rodgers, camped out in front of the main U.S. military hospital in Germany, you do this by emphasizing American casualties.

For The New York Times and The Washington Post, you do this by emphasizing conflict elsewhere in Iraq.

But the news organizations that liken temporary terrorist success in Mosul (the police stations they overran were recaptured the next day) with what happened to the terrorists in Fallujah is false equivalence of the worst kind. If I find a quarter in the street, it doesn't make up for having lost \$1,000 in a poker game the night before.

The resistance has suffered a loss of more than 2,000 combatants, out of a total force estimated by U.S. Central Command at about 5,000 (other estimates are higher) as well as its only secure base in the country. But both the Arab media and ours emphasize that the attack on Fallujah has made a lot of Arabs mad. By this logic, once we've killed all the terrorists, they'll be invincible.

"The experience of human history has been that the more people you kill, the weaker they get," Thompson noted.

For the Arab and European media, the old standby is to allege American atrocities. In this they have had invaluable assistance



Luis Sinco/Los Angeles Times

A member of Company C of the 1st Marine Battalion, 8th Regiment, conducts mop-up duty at a house in Fallujah, Iraq, on Nov. 13.

from Kevin Sites, a freelancer working for NBC, who filmed a Marine shooting a wounded Iraqi feigning death in a mosque his squad was clearing. Al-Jazeera has been showing the footage around the clock.

The mutilated body of Margaret Hassan, the aid worker kidnapped in Baghdad last month, has been discovered in Fallujah, as have torture chambers.

Residents of Fallujah have been describing a reign of terror by the insurgents. But it is the Marine's alleged "war crime" that is garnering the most attention.

The Marine did the right thing. The terrorist he shot was not a prisoner, was not attempting to surrender, and was not a lawful combatant under the Geneva Conventions. The squad had other rooms to clear, and couldn't afford to leave an enemy in its rear.

The San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News described how Lance Cpl. Jeremy Ailes was shot to death on Nov. 15 by an Iraqi who was "playing possum."

"It's a safety issue, pure and simple," explained former Navy SEAL Matthew Heidt. "After assaulting through a target, put a security round in everybody's head."

Journalists quick to judge the Marine are more forgiving when it comes to the terrorists. "They're not bad guys, especially, just people who disagree with us," said MSNBC's Chris Matthews.

And journalists wonder why we are less popular than used car salesmen.

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

## Rumsfeld gets his (nonmilitary) man to run Army

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld last week won his fight to install his man, Francis Harvey, as secretary of the Army.

In the midst of two and a half wars, it is a time when the Army is struggling to transform itself and must use extraordinary methods to

find enough soldiers to fill the rotations to Iraq, Rumsfeld selected a man who's never served in the military or in government to be the Army's CEO.

Rumsfeld told the man he's passing over for the job — acting

Army Secretary Les Brownlee, a retired Army infantry colonel and a highly decorated combat veteran — that he "wanted a businessman" to run the Army. Harvey, a longtime Westinghouse executive, was Rumsfeld's second choice in 18 months of bitter wrangling with some powerful senators.

Rumsfeld's long fight with the senators began in May 2003 when he fired Army Secretary Tom White, a retired Army brigadier general, over White's support of then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki (who angered Rumsfeld by saying he needed several hundred thousand American troops would be needed to occupy Iraq).

When the defense secretary tapped Air Force Secretary James Roche, another defense industry exec and a Navy and government veteran, to take over the Army job, he ran afoul of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

McCain was demanding that the Air Force and Roche hand over internal

e-mails on its plan to lease new airborne tankers from Boeing and when they weren't forthcoming he blocked Roche and all Defense Department civilian nominees.

While all of this was dragging on, the Army was left in the hands of acting secretary Brownlee, who'd spent 18 years on the Hill working for Sen. John Warner, R-Va., and the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Brownlee, who was awarded two Silver Stars for heroism in Vietnam, spent the last three Christmas with American troops in war zones.

Although Brownlee may have been the ideal candidate for the job he was already doing, there was no way Rumsfeld would nominate him. Rumsfeld was angry at how McCain, and more recently Warner, had thwarted his appointment of Roche to run the Army. This time he'd have his way and

his man in that job.

Although the service secretaries are political appointees, they traditionally have been chosen from the ranks of those who've served the country in uniform, preferably in the uniforms of the services they've been picked to run.

Rumsfeld ground down his Hill opponents and got his way in the matter of Harvey.

On Nov. 16, the day Harvey was confirmed as Army secretary, the Pentagon announced the resignation of Air Force Secretary Roche, the guy Rumsfeld originally wanted to run the Army. There was the usual official statement about how Roche had planned to stay only one term and what a wonderful job he'd done.

Roche, another hard-nosed defense industry businessman of the sort the defense secretary seems to like so well, will leave

the Pentagon under investigation by the Justice Department for his role in a \$24 billion noncompetitive contract for 100 aerial refueling tankers from Boeing.

The Air Force's chief negotiator of that deal and many others, Darleen Druyan, also negotiated herself a \$250,000-a-year job with Boeing. She's been sentenced to federal prison. The former chief financial officer of Boeing pleaded guilty for his role in hiring Druyan before she retired from the Air Force.

Rumsfeld himself seems secure in his job as secretary of defense for another year, perhaps longer, in the new Bush Cabinet, even though he and the neoconservatives around him bear particular responsibility for failures of both planning and execution in securing and rebuilding Iraq.

Joseph Galloway is the senior military correspondent for Knight Ridder Newspapers and co-author of the national best-seller "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young."

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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## IN THE WORLD

# Bush arrives in Colombia for anti-drug talks

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

The Associated Press

CARTAGENA, Colombia — President Bush arrived amid heavy security in this colonial city Monday to highlight the benefits of American drug-fighting aid in Colombia and boost a conservative Latin American leader.

Bush was greeted by Colombian Foreign Minister Carolina Barco and then stepped into a limousine with his wife, Laura.

U.S. Navy commandos, armed with assault rifles and peering through binoculars, patrolled in rubber boats off Cartagena, where Bush's meeting with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe was to take place.

Colombian Navy Capt. Nelson Fernandez said the United States would take control of security at the meeting site, a decision that had been reached before a dispute arose over Bush's security at a summit in Chile over the weekend.

Bush's four-hour stay marks the final stop of a three-day Latin American trip. Uribe told Colombian radio he intends to discuss continued U.S. aid to fight rebels and drug trafficking under Plan Colombia, which expires next year.

"It is very important that we are clear that we can't leave this task halfway completed," Uribe said Monday.

Uribe also said any free trade agreement must be fair to both countries, especially to Colombia's agricultural sector.

Briefing reporters at Air Force One before it landed in Cartagena, a senior Bush administration official said there is no commitment that Plan Colombia would be re-

newed. But the official suggested that Colombia would continue to get at least the same amount of aid, or an even more assistance that's restructured.

Under a cloudless sky, Colombian soldiers deployed along Cartagena's Caribbean shore stood atop the city's ancient ramparts as helicopters clattered overhead. Colombian police officers, with links of machine-gun bullets dangling from the shoulders, searched vehicles entering the city.

"It seems that all the security forces of the country have come here," remarked Jennifer Herrera, 27, a supermarket worker.

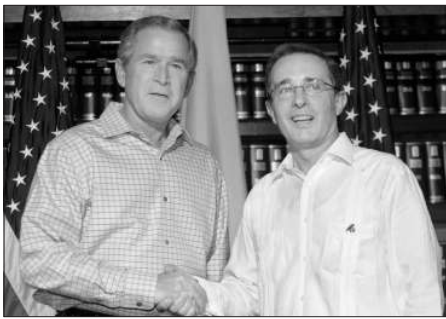
Bush, for his part, landed Colombia.

"Colombia is making progress in the fight against terrorists who traffic in illegal drugs," Bush said Saturday in a radio address previewing the visit. "America is standing with the Colombian government to oppose the drug trade that destroys lives in our countries and threatens the stability of our hemisphere."

That very drug trade — and the deadly Marxist insurgent groups that control it — led to extraordinary security measures for Bush's visit.

About 15,000 Colombian security forces, backed by combat helicopters, radars on the lookout for hostile planes or missiles, and submarines and battle ships prowling the waters, were deployed to protect the president.

Despite the relative peace of the former Spanish port compared with other parts of the country, Bush and Uribe weren't going into the walled city, where they were meeting at a colonial estate on an island just off the coast. Officials even banned the sale of alco-



President Bush shakes hands with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe during the start of their bilateral meeting at presidential guest house "Casa de Huespedes" Monday in Cartagena, Colombia.

holic drinks for 24 hours and gave workers the day off.

Washington has given billions in U.S. military aid for Colombia to combat cocaine production and the leftist rebels that finance themselves through drug trafficking, kidnapping and extortion.

White House aides hinted in advance of

the trip that, as Uribe hopes, more money could be in the cards.

Under the Plan Colombia program, the United States gives Colombian forces training, equipment and intelligence to root out drug traffickers and destroy coca crops.

Kim Housago of The Associated Press contributed to this story from Cartagena.

## Ukraine's presidential race contested

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — With nearly all ballots counted, Ukraine's prime minister retained his narrow lead Monday in the bitterly contested presidential election, which European monitors said was marred by official interference, while the Western-leaning opposition leader called for mass protests against fraud.

The Ukrainian Elections Commission said Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich had 49.2 percent to Viktor Yushchenko's 46.70 percent, with 99.38 percent of pre-

dicts counted. Earlier partial results showed Yanukovich less than one percentage point ahead.

But an exit poll, conducted by anonymous questionnaires under a program funded by several Western governments including the United States, gave Yushchenko 54 percent of the vote to Yanukovich's 43 percent. Another poll had put Yushchenko ahead by 49.4 to 45.9 percent, the Interfax news agency reported.

Observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and NATO criticized the balloting.

"This election did not meet a considerable number of international standards for democratic elections," said Bruce George, who led the observers.

Yushchenko, addressing a crowd of some 10,000 people in Kiev's main Independence Square, called on his supporters

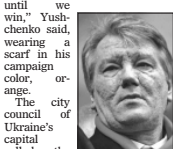
to set up tent camps in central Kiev, and many tents had already gone up, blocking traffic.

"We will not leave this place

until we win," Yushchenko said, wearing a scarf in his campaign color, orange.

The city council of Ukraine's capital called on the country's parliament not to recognize the results of the presidential elections, a spokeswoman said Monday.

The move put Kiev on a growing list of major cities rebelling against election commission results that showed Yanukovich narrowly beating Yushchenko.



Yushchenko

## Iran suspends its nuclear activities

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran has suspended uranium enrichment and all related activities, state-run radio reported Monday, honoring an agreement with Europe designed to head off possible U.N. sanctions.

"To build confidence and in line with implementing the Paris Agreement, Iran suspended uranium enrichment (and related activities) as of today," said the brief radio announcement.

In Vienna, the head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency said the suspension appeared confirmed.

"I think pretty much everything has come to a halt," Mohamed ElBaradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told reporters.

ElBaradei said he expected to have a definitive ruling by Thursday on whether Iran has honored its pledge — made earlier this month — to freeze activities that can be used in energy programs — but also to make nuclear weapons.

The United States accuses Iran of secretly pursuing nuclear weapons and has pushed the international community to take a hard line. Secretary of State

Colin Powell said last week that Washington has intelligence indicating Iran is trying to fit missiles to carry nuclear weapons.

While not prohibited from enrichment under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Iran has been under intense pressure to agree to at least a freeze — if not to scrap its program — as a way of reducing international suspicions.

Iran, which insists its program is peaceful, has said the suspension will be brief, voluntary, and contingent on what Europe does next. Iranian hard-liners have accused the government of sacrificing Iran's rights by agreeing to suspend enrichment.

Under the agreement, reached through negotiations held in Paris with Britain, France and Germany, a working committee would be formed within weeks to define what economic, technological, security and nuclear cooperation Europe will provide. It will report within three months.

Iran portrays the agreement as European support for what it sees as its right to pursue a peaceful nuclear program.

Iran radio said Monday the suspension included reprocessing uranium and building centrifuges used to enrich uranium.

## Powell sees new opportunity for Mideast peace

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli leaders told Secretary of State Colin Powell on Monday that they will do almost to allow Palestinian elections to take place, including easing travel restrictions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a sign of improving ties after

four years of Mideast fighting, Israeli officials also said they are willing to renew talks with the Palestinians on some issues, including security, and to coordinate the aftermath of Israel's planned withdrawal from Gaza and parts of the West Bank in 2005.

Israel had refused to negotiate with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Arafat's death Nov. 11 provided a "moment of opportunity that should not be lost," Powell said.

He told Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom that the United States wants to seize the moment, and to make sure Palestinian presidential elections are held Jan. 9, as planned.

# U.N. official issues warning about Africa

## Conflicts in Sudan and Ivory Coast driving potential investors away

BY ANTHONY MITCHELL  
The Associated Press

**ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia** — The conflicts in Sudan's Darfur region and the Ivory Coast are driving potential investors out of other African countries, a U.N. official warned Monday.

The instability is having a "ripple effect" across the continent and frightening investors away, said Anne Mirox of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development.

"People associate what is happening in Sudan with what is hap-

pening in countries like Senegal or Mali that are more peaceful countries," Mirox told journalists.

Africa, the world's poorest continent, has the lowest levels of foreign investment at \$15 billion a year — accounting for just 3 percent of world investment flows — according to the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development.

The organization says Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Morocco, Nigeria and Sudan attract the largest amount of foreign investment, mainly due to their oil reserves.

By comparison, China attract-

ed investment of \$53 billion in 2003, the organization said.

Mirox and others meeting at a three-day conference aimed at attracting investment in Africa said they were concerned that new fighting threatened investment throughout the continent.

The fighting in Sudan's Darfur started in February 2003 when rebels launched attacks against the Arab-dominated government, claiming discrimination in the distribution of scarce resources.

Pro-government militias hit back, attacking Darfur villages. Nearly 2 million people have

been driven from their homes, and international agencies estimate that since March, disease, malnutrition and clashes among the displaced have killed more than 70,000 people.

Ivory Coast, which accounts for an estimated 40 percent of economic production in French-speaking West Africa, has been wracked by violence since government forces broke a cease-fire and reopened a civil war against rebels on Nov. 4.

A government airstrike killed nine French peacekeepers and an American, and French forces responded by wiping out Ivory

Coast's new air force. That sparked thousands of government loyalists to unleash a frenzy of rioting and looting in what was once West Africa's economic engine.

"What is happening in Ivory Coast is terrible for foreign investment because this country was once a pearl," Mirox said.

Augustin Fosu of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa said hanging out investment was crucial.

"Africa has to tap foreign capital in order to raise the productivity levels necessary for sustained increases in living standards of its population," Fosu said.



Don Robinson, Hong Kong Disneyland Group managing director, right, joins Mickey Mouse in celebration on Monday after revealing the park's opening date as Sept. 12. The auspicious day chosen by a feng shui master.

## Hong Kong Disneyland slated to open Sept. 12

BY MIN LEE  
The Associated Press

**HONG KONG** — Hong Kong Disneyland will open on Sept. 12, 2005, an auspicious day chosen by a feng shui master, Disney announced Monday as officials touted the projected economic benefits the theme park is expected to attract.

Hong Kong Financial Secretary Henry Tang and Disney executive Don Robinson unveiled a banner showing the opening date at a news conference while Mickey Mouse looked on.

In keeping with local tradition, Disney officials consulted a feng shui expert in picking the date. Feng shui is the Chinese art of choosing dates and arranging the layout of objects to improve fortunes.

"It has assured us that Sept. 12 is a fabulous day to open Hong

Kong Disneyland," said Robinson, Hong Kong Disneyland Group's managing director.

Hong Kong Disneyland is a joint venture between the territory's government and The Walt Disney Co., but local taxpayers are shouldering most of the park's \$3.5 billion price tag.

In a statement released by Disney, Tang was quoted as saying Hong Kong is projected to reap a total amount of \$19 billion from the park 40 years after it opens.

Adult admission is set at \$45 for the weekend and public holidays, with a lower price for weekdays — the cheapest price among Disney's five parks around the world.

But the Hong Kong park takes the unusual approach of classifying children over 11 as adults — a grouping that could make up for the low price by boosting the volume of adult ticket sales.

## Celebrating the classic icons of British design

BY JILL LAWLESS  
The Associated Press

**LONDON** — The courtyard of Buckingham Palace turned temporary museum Monday for an exhibition of items celebrating the best of British design — including a decommissioned Anglo-French plane, a German-owned car and a soon-to-be obsolete bus.

The grandly titled Avenue of British Design — a short path flanked by well-worn icons of British style including a black London taxi and a red mailbox — was laid out in the palace quadrangle for a reception hosted by Queen Elizabeth II.

Some 400 guests, including shoemaker Patrick Cox, furniture guru Terence Conran and fashion designer Paul Smith, will pass the objects on their way to a palace reception, one in a series recognizing British achievement in science, technology and other fields.

A few of the items, such as the penny-farthing bicycle, are quaint. Most would be instantly recognizable to any visitor to Britain — a red telephone booth; a shiny double-decker bus; the drooping nose cone of a supersonic Concorde jet.

But many, including the red phone booth and the snub-nosed, open-backed Routemaster bus, are disappearing from British streets, overtaken by technological change after decades in use.

British Telecom plans to have 65,000 phone booths — a mix of the classic red kiosks introduced in the 1930s and drabber glass models — on the streets by the end of the year, down from 140,000 in 1999. With more than four-fifths of Britons using mobile phones, BT says the booths just aren't needed.

Transport for London has been phasing out the much-loved Routemasters for more than a year and says all but a handful of the 200 that remain will be gone by the end of 2005, replaced by more energy efficient and accessible — but, many argue, less attractive — models.

A Transport for London spokesman said the Routemasters "have served the city well. They are a design icon. But it's time for a new design icon to come onto the streets."

David Kester, head of Britain's Design Council, said change was healthy.

"I think it would be unhealthy — we would be becoming theme-park Britain — if we held onto every single piece of design out of some emotional attachment or desire to promote Britain as a heritage park," he said.

Kester said designers were continuing to reshape Britain. "You only have to look at the British landscape. Look at London with Tate Modern (art gallery), the London Eye (Ferris wheel), the Millennium Bridge."



A London Routemaster bus enters the gates of London's Buckingham Palace Monday prior to being positioned inside the Palace's Quadrangle where it will be displayed, amongst other British designed objects, at a reception for the Prince Philip Designer prize and the Design Council.

Monday's reception will feature models of some of that modern design — including London's curved "Gherkin" skyscraper designed by architect Lord Norman Foster, the bagless vacuum cleaner created by James Dyson and a graphic of a Rolls-Royce jet engine by design engineer Geoff Kirk.

Still, some of the items on display tell a bitter-sweet tale of British manufacturing decline.

Concorde, the needle-nosed jet that symbolized luxury and glamour for a generation of travelers, was retired last year after almost 30 years in service.

The Mini, compact automotive icon of Swinging London, is now owned by Germany's BMW.

The Design Council estimates that design is a \$9 billion business in Britain. But many of the best British-trained designers work for foreign companies.

One of Britain's most lauded young designers is Jonathan Ive, who designed the sleek iMac and iPod for U.S.-based Apple Computer Inc. "I think British design is in a very robust state," said Kester, whose Design Council urges businesses to consider the importance of design. "The real issue is, is British industry using British design well enough? Are we smart enough to take advantage of our creative talent?" "We have a British design sector working for smart British businesses and smart businesses overseas."

## Blind man accused

**NJ** ENGLEWOOD — A blind man shot and killed his former girlfriend during an argument about an unpaid telephone bill, prosecutors said.

Robert Cameron was charged with murdering 31-year-old Coleen Garis at his apartment, shooting her several times in the torso, said Bergen County prosecutor John L. Molinelli.

Cameron is blind in one eye and sees only shadows with the other, relatives said. "How could he shoot her so many times?" asked a cousin, Benita Harris.

Another cousin questioned the alleged motive. "Why do you kill somebody over a \$25 phone bill? He wasn't that type of guy, wasn't a street guy," Roy Harris said.

Cameron, 31, was hospitalized after swallowing prescription drugs, and was in critical condition, according to Englewood Hospital and Medical Center. Molinelli does not believe it was a suicide attempt because Cameron could have killed himself with the gun.

Relatives said Cameron lost his vision to diabetes and also suffered from high blood pressure and a heart condition.

## Costly prevention tactics

**WI** MADISON — Local law enforcement agencies spent nearly \$500,000 during Halloween this year. Authorities deployed 100 officers along the city's popular State Street in an effort to avoid the Halloween riots of previous years. Luis Yudice, the acting assistant police chief, said he felt he had a mandate from the city to do everything possible to ensure safety. About 450 people were arrested.

## Woman, dog killed

**CA** PITTSBURGH — Tu Thi Tran and her family dog, Rusty, were taking a walk as they did every day when someone driving a Chrysler New Yorker ran them down and took off without stopping or calling for help.

The 79-year-old grandmother was most likely in the crosswalk of the busy street, police said, when the car struck her and the 6-year-old Yorkshire terrier from behind and fled. They both died at the scene.

Tran was taking care of Rusty for her granddaughter, who received the dog as a gift.

## Seat belt dispute

**FL** WEST PALM BEACH — A fatal school bus crash has revived the debate in Florida about whether seat belts should be mandatory — and what kind of protection they provide.

Diana Kautz, a freshman at Royal Palm Beach High School, wasn't wearing a lap belt when her school bus collided with a pickup truck and rolled over last week.

She was ejected and killed. "Just like when we as parents are going to work, we have a lap belt on and a shoulder harness. The same should be available to students on school buses," said Democratic state Rep. Irv Slosberg. His proposed bill last year to require shoulder belts on school buses was never heard.

Palm Beach County School Board members have said they want to review the issue but will wait until an investigation of the crash is complete. At least four other states, including New York



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

and California, require belts in school buses.

## Generous pay raise

**ME** BANGOR — A 400 percent pay hike may sound more than generous, but it's another story when it's the first increase in more than half a century.

Until this month, the annual stipend for the nine members of the Bangor City Council remained at \$400, the same as it was in 1951 when Harry Truman was president and it cost 3 cents to mail a letter and \$1,540 to buy a new Chevrolet.

Thanks to a charter amendment approved by voters three years ago, the stipend has been raised to \$2,000, with an additional \$500 for the council chairman.

The current chairman, Frank Farrington, opposed the increase, which took effect after the Nov. 2 municipal elections.

"I don't think anyone is in this for the money," he said.

"You serve because you want to help make your community better. That's the kind of community Bangor is."

## Stem cell research

**IL** SPRINGFIELD — Illinois senators declined to endorse embryonic stem cell research. The legislation would have welcomed stem cell research in Illinois, require that patients at fertility clinics be told they could donate un-

needed embryos for research and made it a felony to use cloning to reproduce humans. It would not have provided any public money.

## Child-porn deputy

**CA** MARIN COUNTY — A former sheriff's deputy has pleaded guilty to a federal charge of possessing child pornography, authorities said.

Robert Glen Anderson, 58, entered a guilty plea. He had been indicted on three child-porn counts in April 2003.

Anderson admitted that while living in Vallejo in July 2000, he possessed computer floppy disks that contained child pornography. An examination of the disks showed at least 39 images, including those that showed children involved in sexually explicit conduct, authorities said.

## Water contamination

**DC** WASHINGTON — The water supply of the nation's capital contains minute amounts of a chemical found in rocket fuel even after it is treated, officials announced.

Although samples taken at the Dalcacarla treatment plant indicated measurable amounts of perchlorate, officials said consumers in the District of Columbia and Virginia's Arlington County and city of Falls Church had no reason to be alarmed.

Perchlorate is a naturally occurring compound that can also be manufactured. It's primary use is as a stabilizer in solid rocket fuel. In sufficient amounts, it can interfere with thyroid function and increase the rate of developing thyroid cancer.

"Our water is meeting all EPA water standards," said Thomas Jacobus, general manager of the Washington Aqueduct. Test conducted at the aqueduct indicated some samples ranged from 1.2 to 1.8 parts per billion, but most were a fraction of that amount.

## Dad charged with abuse

**NH** WILTON — A father has been charged with severely injuring his 4-month-old son, breaking eight ribs, an arm and both legs.

Police say they were called to Southern New Hampshire Medical Center on Nov. 4 after Derek Whistler brought the child in, saying he had been crying for 18 hours and that something was wrong with the baby's arm.

According to the police report, Whistler, 39, said he may have been too rough with the boy a couple of times, squeezing him, putting him in his car seat roughly and twisting his arm while dressing him.

The baby's injuries are not life-threatening, said Hillsborough County Attorney Marguerite Wageling.

Whistler was arraigned by Judge Martha Crocker in Milford District Court. He was charged with one count of first-degree assault for each of the incidents that he relayed and is being held at the Hillsborough County Jail on \$100,000 bail. He has a probable cause hearing scheduled on Nov. 23.

If Whistler makes bail, Judge Crocker ordered him to stay at least 100 yards away from the child.



**Leaping for joy** Shaina Brohard, 11, a student at Mount Carmel Academy, a Catholic school in the Green Bay Diocese, in Wisconsin, leaps across a wall at Jackson Square Park during recess.



**Mmm, cranberry juice** A man wades amidst a sea of cranberries on his 1,800-acre farm east of Aitkin, Minn.



**Backyard circus act** Katy Danielle Hundley works out on a trampoline at her house on Shortown Road in Middleburg, Ky.



## The tables have turned

**Jake, a wild turkey, brings a pair of cars to a stop on County Home Road at the west edge of Whittier, Iowa, as the drivers try to avoid hitting the bird. Jake has been causing minor traffic tie-ups as he chases slow-moving cars.**





**Groovin' to the music** After the formal waltzes, Estefany Pelaez, center, and her friends groove to modern Latin music in the Jacobson Elementary School gymnasium in Chandler, Ariz., during her quinceanera celebration.



## Gone fishing

Steve Roslund fishes for perch from his kayak on Boyd Lake in Loveland, Colo. Calm water and warm temperatures lured Roslund to the lake on his day off.



## Bright performance

Members of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater perform for school children at the Music Hall in Kansas City, Mo.



## Thanksgiving education

From front left, Jefferson Elementary's Tahjric Collins, Kimberly Lopez and Allesandra Castillo sing along with their classmates dressed as pilgrims and Indians in celebration of American Education Week at the Broadmoor Mall in Hobbs, N.M.

## University, Navy deal

**HI** HONOLULU — The University of Hawaii Board of Regents has given approval for school administrators to negotiate terms of a new research relationship with the Navy.

A military research center at the university could open the way to \$50 million or more in government contracts. It could become one of five Navy University Affiliated Research Centers in the nation, and the first new one in 60 years.

Native Hawaiians voiced opposition to the defense research at UH.

"The military has done more to damage our lands than anything else, including the bombing of Pearl Harbor," said Manu Kaiaima, of the Kuali Council, which represents all Native Hawaiian organizations on campus. "Do not prostitute our home for money."

The university currently receives \$300 million annually for research projects, including defense work.

## Library late fee

**MN** BLAINE — Most parents wouldn't worry much if notified that one of their children borrowed a load of books and CDs from the library.

But when Michelle Nash got a bill for more than \$350 in overdue fines and replacement costs, she knew something unwholesome was afoot.

It seems there had been promiscuous borrowing on the library card that her 10-year-old son, Garrett, lost last summer.

Michelle Nash had the library put a stop on any use of the card.

The missing items were mostly Christian-music compilations, along with a Louis Armstrong collection and a copy of Motor Trend magazine.

The collection action against the Nashes will stop now that police are looking into the occurrence as a theft.

## Inmates released early

**WA** TACOMA — Two men who were convicted of felony animal cruelty after firing an arrow repeatedly into a stray dog until it died have been released from jail weeks early.

The jail released Troy Loney and Steven Paulson as part of a court-ordered effort to relieve jail overcrowding.

The news prompted agonized reactions from some who led animal-rights demonstrations outside the courthouse during Paulson's and Loney's legal proceedings.

The sheriff's department has enough jail space to accommodate many more inmates, but it can't because the county lacks funds to pay for more jailers.

## Mom charged in '72 death

**MD** BALTIMORE — When Richard A. Coffman's 5-year-old brother died in 1972, Coffman was only 3.

Although his recollection of his brother's death was fuzzy at best, his two-paragraph e-mail to Baltimore County police this summer said he knew who did it: his mother.

Thirty-two years after Edward

Coffman's death, Baltimore County police went to Orange City, Fla., and arrested Diane B. Coffman, 57, at the dental office where she works as a receptionist.

She is charged with first-degree murder in her son's death.

"It's old, the mother is accused of killing her child, and the tip came from another child," said Baltimore County police spokesman Bill Toohy.

Toohy would not say specifically what was in the e-mail sent by Richard Coffman, 35, other than it was about his mother's character and things that had happened after his brother's death.

"It wasn't so much what he remembered about age 3, but some other things about his past that he shared with us," Toohy said.

The case was reopened in July after Richard Coffman's e-mail grabbed the attention of two Baltimore County detectives.

## Turkey hurling incident

**NY** RONKONKOMA — Five teenagers were arrested in the hurling of a frozen turkey that smashed through a motorist's windshield, critically injuring her.

Police said Ryan Cushing, 18, threw the turkey from a car he and the other teens were riding in. It smashed through the car window of a 44-year-old woman who was driving in the other direction. She was in critical condition at Stony Brook University Hospital.

Cushing was arrested on charges of first-degree assault, reckless endangerment, forgery, criminal mischief and criminal possession of stolen property. He and the other teens allegedly stole a credit card to buy the turkey at a supermarket.

The other four teens were charged with criminal possession of stolen property.

## Knife pulled on student

**CO** BOULDER — A University of Colorado lecturer admits pulling a knife on a pacifist female student he said insulted veterans during his class.

The student said lecturer Michael Kanner shouldn't be disciplined and would like to see if they can work out their differences after Thanksgiving.

The student's statement was released through the university, which is investigating the actions of Kanner, an instructor in political science and international affairs.

Kanner, a former career Army officer, brandished a small pen-knife after the student made a statement during a classroom discussion on Veterans Day.

## Tradition snapped

**GA** ATLANTA — A holiday tradition was stalled when a 75-foot Christmas tree snapped in half. Workers were hoisting the Great Georgia Pine atop Rich's-Macy's store at Lennox Mall when it broke.

Atlanta-based Rich's began the Thanksgiving Day lighting tradition more than 50 years ago. Store officials said they'll bring in a backup tree and still expect to be ready by Thanksgiving.

Stories and photos from wire services

## FACES

# Bridget is back

## Zellweger revives quirky Brit for sequel



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY HOUSTON RUCK

Stars and Stripes

Renée Zellweger signs autographs for fans as she arrives at the British premiere of her new movie "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason" in Leicester Square, London.

BY HANH NGUYEN

Zap2it.com

LOS ANGELES  
Three years after starring in "Bridget Jones's Diary," Renée Zellweger found slipping back into the role of the titular British singleton for the sequel challenging beyond the much ballyhooed weight gain.

For "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," the Texan actress — who has slimmed back down and now sports a brunette hairdo — admits that she had difficulty relearning Bridget's signature quirky way of speaking.

"It was like starting over again," says the actress. "I was terrified of it because it was something that evolved and became very colloquial in a very specific way last time. I had (voice and dialect coach) Barbara Berkery there every day saying, 'No, that was too precise. Slushier, slushier,' because Bridget has kind of a lippy thing that she does."

Despite her struggles re-creating the British accent, Zellweger has won the heart of the island nation for embodying the plucky protagonist.

"I think the truth is if anything we consider Renée Zellweger a national treasure. I do not think that we have given her up to you lot," says director Beeban Kidron to a roomful of American reporters.

"I think that we think that she is English and that she's our treasure."

"Edge of Reason" picks up several weeks after the original "Bridget Jones" left off, with Bridget (Zellweger) enjoying a blissful relationship — complete with many shags — with the very proper lawyer Mark Darcy (Colin Firth). Being Bridget, however, she soon loses her man, fouls up her job and even lands in a Thai prison before she gets her happy ending.

To reprise the critically acclaimed role, Zellweger had to come to terms with Bridget's seemingly desperate actions, especially when, after having only dated six weeks, she demands that Darcy reveal whether or not he'd consider marrying her.

"I think it becomes pretty evident that she knows that she's made a big mistake there. And that not only is it unreasonable, but it probably might have been the catalyst to the end of this relationship for having terrified the man with the outburst," says Zellweger.

"But she never fails to trudge forward and to believe that she's gonna be fine and she always moves on. That's strength to me."

Besides the character work, the petite actress also had physical challenges to meet. The fair-skinned Zellweger pokes fun at herself for her sensitivity to the sun, which became problematic while shooting in Thailand. Although castmate Hugh Grant describes her work ethic as "redoubtable," he was appalled by the lengths she took to protect her skin.

"She's got this thing that she believes the sun will make her skin come up in boils and peel off her bones," Grant explains. "So she's dressed up like Julie Andrews at the beginning of 'The Sound of Music,' like a nun — umbrellas and gloves and everything. It's a nightmare."

Zellweger fared better in Austria's colder climate, where she performed her own skiing stunts. During two snowy sequences, the actress falls out of a ski lift, glides backwards for several feet, skis down a slalom course and ends up skiing straight into the front door of a shop.

The modest actress makes light of her risky behavior, though, and instead praises the cameraman who mimicked each of her stunts — while skiing backwards.

"He was an extreme skier and ... (had) the camera strapped around his torso, that he looked down into and held right here. He never looked up, never," says Zellweger. "He was depending on me to tell him when he was about to be killed, by trees or veering off too far to the edge of the mountain never to be heard from again."

Kidron reveals that the filmmakers had initially hired two stunt doubles for Zellweger's scenes who just weren't convincing on film as the star.

"These people could not embody the Bridget 'oneness,' the Bridget aspiration, the Bridget attempt-and-failure in that body during that sequence," says the director. "The thing about Renée is that she is a proper comedian ... (not only) because of the way she says the words. She's a comedian from the soles of her feet to the top of her head."

## Rivera sells newspaper

TV personality and journalist Geraldito Rivera has ended his 14-year ownership of the *Two River Times*, selling the weekly newspaper to a couple from Rumson, N.J.

Michael J. Gooch and Diane Gooch wouldn't disclose how much they spent to buy the 20,000-circulation newspaper. Diane Gooch has taken over as publisher.

Rivera, who moved out of the Red Bank area several years ago after his divorce, said in a statement Thursday that the newspaper needed "a more connected and locally based hand on the helm than mine."

Gooch is the chairman, chief executive and founder of brokerage company GFI

Group.

## Guccione estate sold

The former Hudson Valley estate of Penthouse magazine founder Bob Guccione is being sold to

hotelier Andre Balazs and actress Una Thurman, according to the property's auctioneer.

George Cole Auctions sold off the contents of Guccione's former summer home at the end of the summer.

Cole, who is also a licensed real estate broker, said Balazs and Thurman attended the auction, expressed interest in the property and have a contract to buy it.

Cole declined to disclose the purchase price, but told the *Daily Freeman* in King-

ston that he expects the closing before Dec. 15.

The 55-acre estate and 16-room mansion in the hamlet of Staatsburg are 60 miles south of Albany.

Guccione sold the property, which he called "The Willows," in February after defaulting on a \$14.5 million loan.

Last year he resigned as chief executive of Penthouse International, three months after the publishing arm of the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

## Carrey happy without Prozac

Jim Carrey said on the CBS program "60 minutes" that he is better able to deal with depression now that he lives a life free of Prozac and alcohol.

In an interview for Sunday's broadcast, Carrey said he took Prozac for a long time but the drug didn't cure his depression.

"I had to get off at a certain point because I realized that ... everything is just

OK," he told reporter Steve Kroft at his home in Brentwood, Calif.

Even when he was taking Prozac, the depression didn't go away entirely, he says.

"It feels like a low level of despair you live in where you're not getting any answers but you're living OK and you can smile at the office," he said.

Carrey says he still has bouts of depression but he now deals with it without Prozac and alcohol.

"I rarely drink coffee. I am very serious about no alcohol, no drugs," he said. "Life is too beautiful."

Carrey's film credits include "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," "The Mask" and "The Truman Show."

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Rivera



Guccione



Carrey



 Cold frnt.  
  Warm frnt.  
  TROUGH  
  Occluded fr.  
  Staty. front

Meyer & Sharif **MIDEAST**

A map of Central Asia and surrounding regions. Three locations are marked with black dots and labeled with their scores in parentheses: Ashgabat (69/30), Kabul (61/35), and Islamabad (76/45). The map also shows the borders of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan.

## Kandahar 82/56

A map of the Persian Gulf region showing the locations of Zahedan, Dubai, Karachi, Bombay, and Hyderabad with their respective coordinates.

Location	Coordinates
Zahedan	83/42
Dubai	91/66
Karachi	88/63
Bombay	93/71
Hyderabad	86/61

## THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time

30s  
40s  
50s  
20s  
30s  
40s  
50s  
60s  
10s  
20s  
30s  
40s  
50s  
60s  
70s  
80s

H H L

Fronts separate high temperature zones

© 2004 AccuWeather, Inc.

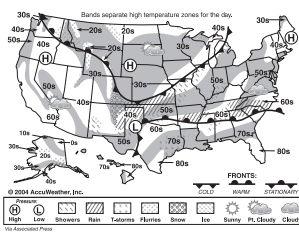
Pressure: H High, L Low

Precipitation: Rain (diagonal lines), Showers (dotted lines), Snow (cross-hatched)

Temperature: 10s, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s

## THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



**Portugal, Spain:** Sunny. Highs in the low 60s to low 70s, Wednesday lows in the mid 30s to low 50s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at:  
<https://ows.sembach.af.mil>  
<http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

## SUN &amp; MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:42am	6:42am
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	7:52am	7:53am
Sunset (Baghdad)	4:57pm	4:57pm
Sunset (Frankfurt)	4:33pm	4:32pm

New moon      First qtr.      Full moon      Last qtr.

Scheduled to **EIS** or **PCS**? every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

Check our Relocation Guide  
every Saturday to find  
Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES  
Your Hometown Newspaper

# Horoscope

With Venus at the south node and the moon at the north node, relationships are shaken out of automatic modes. Looking back at a very first meeting or an early phase of a relationship is enlightening—it only we knew then what we know now, how would we have acted differently? There's a chance to rectify an action or apologize, too.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(November 23).** Love connections get even stronger this year, as you pursue your ambition with great passion. You simply won't quit, and that makes you attractive to people who would like to help you. A financial opportunity opens up in January. You may feel undecided about what to do until a new person shows up in February who dictates a course of action.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** A step on the stairway of learning is featured. Make sure you understand the changing responsibilities that come your way, preferably before you agree to them. Realistic budgeting now will allow you to travel later.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** A principle of economics called Stein's Law may help you process the madness that is your life today: "Things that can't go on forever, don't." But instead of trying to just get through it, laugh in the moment.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Your sleeping dreams are colorful but nothing compared to your waking ones! Be careful with whom you share them, as practical, well-meaning folks could rain on your parade just when you need a cheerleader.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Sometimes, things are more right when they go all wrong. You'll emerge from a humbling scenario as a better person. Look for opportunities to bring in additional income through part-time or overtime work.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Be the voice of reason! Beware of macho posturing from people around you. Such arrogance could cause the group to believe it can sustain the

unsustainable. Then, later, it will fall to you to clean up the mess.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You've got a poetic gift! Write a passionate letter! You could woo someone through language or song.

By putting pen to paper, you see your thoughts more clearly and may decide it's time to change some of them.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** It has been said that wisdom is knowing what should be done and virtue is actually doing it. You embody both characteristics in big and small ways. Sometimes, this means not answering your cell phone in public.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Someone with a quick wit will entertain you, but be wary about getting too involved. Guard against being a follower. Manners and class equal putting the comfort of others before your own.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** A sudden sense of peace catches you off guard and causes you to slow down. Maybe you don't have to try and cram in all those errands! You're so relaxed tonight, you actually let contentment settle into your bones.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** In order to accomplish what you've said you will accomplish, you need more manpower. Training, trusting and rewarding others will be a theme of this day if you're to set yourself up for success.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Identity problems so you can obliterate them. After all, anxiety is not fear of something but fear of nothing at all. It's not knowing what to be afraid of that's debilitating. Give your "enemy" a form so you can get rid of it.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You are just where you need to be. Know this—believe it at a deeper place in your psyche. Your sense of calm helps you deal with a million little details that need to be addressed.

Creators Sygma and Sygma

## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



## Zits



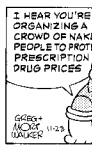
## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



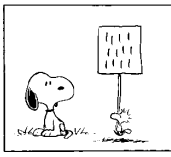
## Red and Rover



## Better or Worse



## Peanuts





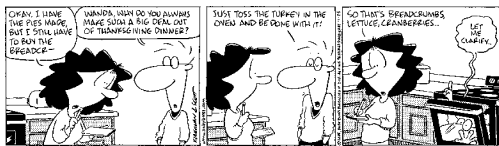
Fotrot



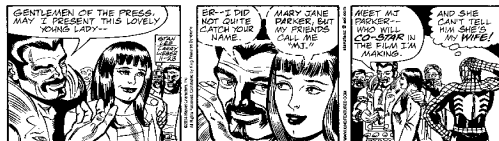
B.C.



Baby Blues



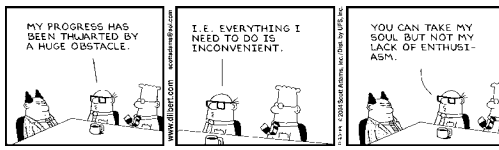
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



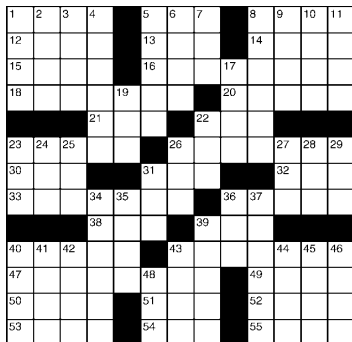
Hagar



Garfield



# Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Mallard's cousin
- 5 Scoundrel
- 8 Summer cabin site
- 12 Cartoonist
- 13 "tabacco Road"
- 14 Saruman port
- 15 Belligerent delty
- 16 Big scores in Vegas
- 18 Capital of Brandenburg
- 20 Restless
- 21 La-la precursor
- 22 Long March leader
- 23 Astronaut-turned-politician
- 26 Dulling influences
- 30 Thumbs-up vote
- 31 "Alley—"
- 32 Privy
- 33 Character
- 36 Distorted
- 38 Mimic
- 39 Mischief-maker
- 40 Texas A&M athlete
- 43 Winning and winning
- 47 Attendance check
- 49 Concept
- 50 Bender?
- 51 Doctor's due
- 52 Apparel
- 53 Gardener's starter
- 54 Youngster
- 55 Piccadilly statue

## Down

- 1 Snare
- 2 Franc replacer
- 3 Help a hood
- 4 Piece of instruction
- 5 Punjab potentate
- 6 Rib relinquisher
- 7 Middle X or O?
- 8 Convenient computer
- 9 Vulgate Bible bks.
- 10 Friends and neighbors
- 11 Hassle-free
- 12 Former Patriots' owner Victor
- 13 Get dressed in
- 14 Chart
- 15 Separation
- 16 Caustic solution
- 17 Producer (Suff.)
- 26 "— good deed"
- 27 Wapiti
- 28 Beluga product
- 29 Ms. piggy?
- 31 Indivisible
- 34 Went like Columbus
- 35 Well-financed org.?
- 36 "I — lineman ..."
- 37 Elf
- 39 Bay
- 40 Clumsy craft
- 41 Vanished
- 42 Mirth
- 43 Broad spread
- 44 Skunk's defense
- 45 Toy block name
- 46 Colleen
- 48 Sternward

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 11-23

## CRYPTOQUIP

OWVFG UCU MGE B QRFL  
 UGOYWOGO YHGPEB W  
 NRG OO HVG QWNL P OCB

L G O CMGE O G PH MGE O G.  
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A DOCUMENTARY  
 ABOUT FISH IS GREAT, I GUESS YOU MIGHT  
 DESCRIBE IT AS FINTASTIC.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: M equals V

# Buying the ring a complicated thing

**Dear Abby:** "Deb in Knoxville" asked who should buy the ring for the woman proposes. I think the groom should buy the ring for the bride, and the bride should buy the ring for the groom, no matter who proposes. It should be their gift to each other.

—Joyful

**in Alpharetta, GA.**  
Dear Joyful: My ears are "ringing" from the many comments I've received regarding that letter. Read on:

**Dear Abby:** Your answer to "Deb in Knoxville" was right on. You advised her that if the man is a gentleman, he should buy it. And if he refuses, she should enter the marriage with her eyes wide open and no illusions about what her future will be.

Even though my husband popped the question to me, he never bought me a ring. It was

**Dear Abby**



an indication of what was to come. He is the world's worst cheapskate.  
I can count on one hand the number of gifts he has given me over the years. He is equally withholding emotionally. When I was single, I never thought that such things were important in a relationship. I was wrong. It's been a lonely life.

—Lonely in Dixie  
Dear Lonely: In your case, the lack of gifts is less important than the absence of what they stand for. You have my sympathy.

**Dear Abby:** My girlfriend tells me that it is tradition that the man buys the woman a ring, and the woman buys the man a watch. What a great tradition! Have you heard of this?

—Bob in Chicago

Dear Bob: No, so I called Dawn Moore, the West Coast

regional director of Chopard Jewelers. She informed me that a wristwatch is the "traditional offering" from the woman to the man at the time of the engagement or the wedding.

(What a clever way of ensuring he makes it to the church on time!)

**Dear Abby:** "Deb in Knoxville" asked who should buy the ring if the woman proposes. You replied that you're old-fashioned, and the man should buy it if he's a gentleman. I disagree! If the woman asks, she should buy the ring. Not only that, but she should present that ring to him. What's good for the goose is good for the gander.

—Equal Opportunity Engager  
Dear Engager: Thank you for stating the opposing point of view.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**HOTOT**

**HOBAR**

**AMRUTE**

**YONNEA**

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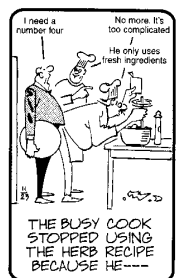
**OF**

**OF**

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## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ABIDE HURRY EQUATE JETSAM  
Answer: What the cop turned prison did for his patient's pain — "ARRESTED" IT

# Widow finds disturbing book

**Dear Annie:** My husband, "Lester," was killed in an auto accident last month. Yesterday, I finally received the last items from his car.

When I went through them, I found a paperback book that was disgusting, pornographic trash. The loss of my husband has been overwhelming, but finding this book was a new low.

I knew Lester was addicted to pornography. It affected our intimate life together because he was more interested in pornography than in me. Three years ago, a former high school classmate sent Lester topless pictures of herself, and he started e-mailing her. My trust evaporated, and our 14-year marriage was on the rocks. A marriage counselor helped us work through our problems, and Lester agreed there would be

**Annie's Mailbox**



no more porn.  
I thought our marriage was OK again, but after finding that X-rated garbage in his car, I have doubts that anything Lester ever said or did was true. Lester always told me he loved me. He told our friends he adored me. Now I think he may have been lying.

Since he's not here to defend himself, how am I supposed to get through the pain of losing him so suddenly in the accident, and then losing him again through this betrayal?

—Heartbroken

Dear Heartbroken: This must have been quite a shock for you, and I'm no doubt turned your world upside-down. Please don't look backward and relish everything Lester said and did in an effort to spot the lies.

Lester's behavior was, to a certain extent, beyond his con-

trol. It doesn't mean he wasn't trying or that he loved you any less. You need to have faith in that and forgive him. If you still cannot manage to do that, ask your doctor to refer you to a grief counselor.

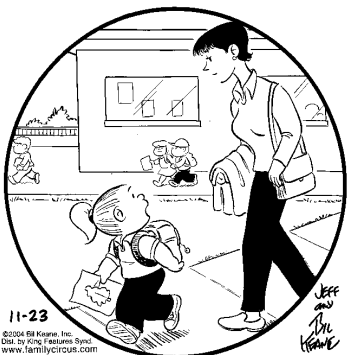
**Dear Annie:** I wonder if you could answer a trivial question for me: On which side do you place the open end of the pillowcase when making up the bed? Does it go toward the outside or the inside? Thanks.

—Florida Flounder  
Dear Florida: The open end goes toward the outer edge of the bed, where it can be seen. Many edges are embroidered and meant to be noticed. You're welcome.

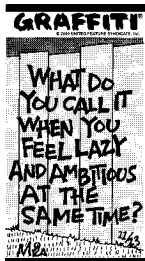
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniemailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniemailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



"I like it when the lunchroom is noisy. I can't hear people chewing."

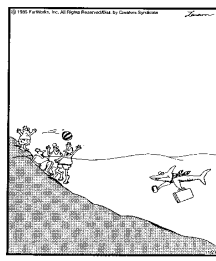


Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



The shark on the go

26

10-01

www.fox.com



# USC, Oklahoma in control

## Auburn likely to be left out of national title game

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

Southern California and Oklahoma held the top two spots in the Bowl Championship Series standings on Monday, leaving little doubt that the Trojans and Sooners are the team left out of the Orange Bowl no matter how they do in the Southeastern Conference championship game on Dec. 4 against Tennessee.

USC finishes the season against Notre Dame on Saturday and UCLA on Dec. 4. The Sooners still have to play the Big 12 title game

against either Iowa State or Colorado.

Only an unexpected loss or a dramatic shift in the polls, where USC is a solid No. 1 and Oklahoma holds a slight advantage over Auburn for second, could derail the Trojans and Sooners.

Not only did Oklahoma, with a BCS grade of .9642, slightly increase its lead over Auburn (.9356) from last week to .0286, but the Sooners also made a big gain on USC.

The Trojans' 9789 grade is their lowest of the season. Their lead on Oklahoma is down to .0147.

Oklahoma was idle last week while USC was shutting out Baylor 35-0 on Saturday. Auburn trailed at the half before beating Alabama 21-13.

California (.8504) is in fourth place and Texas (.8301) is fifth, with Utah (.8172) sixth.

The Utes (11-0) finished their season on Saturday with a 52-21 win over Mountain West Conference rival BYU, all but ensuring themselves of being the first team from a non-BCS conference to play in a BCS game.

Teams from outside the BCS conferences need to finish in the top six of the final BCS standings to guarantee a spot in one of the four \$14-million bowl games.

Boise State is seventh, keeping alive the possibility that the BCS could have two mid-major teams in it this season. The unbeaten Broncos (10-0) of the Western Athletic Conference have a grade of .639 and one game left against Nevada.



Quarterback Jason White and the Sooners increased their BCS lead over No. 3 Auburn and also gained on No. 1 USC.

It's still a long shot for Boise State, though. Even if California or Texas loses its season finale and the Broncos finish unbeaten, it might not be enough for them to make the jump they need in the polls and computer rankings.

# Holtz retires after 33 years of coaching

BY PETE IACOBELLI

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina coach Lou Holtz walked away from coaching Monday, ending a 33-year career that was one of the most successful and colorful in college football history.

"It's always with mixed emotions whenever you leave something," Holtz said during a news conference, his eyes filling with tears.

The 67-year-old coach told the team and his staff on Thursday, although he said little publicly about his departure or about reports Steve Spurrier will succeed him.

Holtz did not identify his successor, but said he was a well-known proven winner whom he plays golf with.

He also said Monday that if South Carolina goes to a bowl game, it would be best for the university if the new coach leads them there. That's a change from Saturday, when Holtz said he intended to coach the team in a bowl game after the Gamecocks lost 29-7 to Clemson.

"I don't know where I'm going to go. I don't know what I'm going to do. I have faith in the Lord to lead him lead. As long as my family's with me, everything else will be OK," Holtz said.

"But I do feel confident leaving here that the football program is on a firm foundation."

He's eighth in career victories with 249. But what he became known for was reviving dormant programs. He took six schools — William & Mary, North Carolina State, Arkansas, Minnesota, Notre Dame and South Carolina — to bowl games by his second year. He won a national championship with the Fighting Irish in 1985.

After leaving South Bend, Ind., in 1996 and thinking he would never coach again, the then 61-year-old Holtz was lured to Columbia to replace fired Brad Scott.

Holtz suffered through a miserable first season in 1999. His wife, Beth, had a recurrence of throat cancer; his son and top assistant, Skip, had a mysterious illness that hospitalized him early that football season; his mother, Anne Marie, died right before the Florida game; and a university plane carrying Holtz on a recruiting trip crashed after dropping the coach off, killing the pilot.

His team went 0-11, the worst season of Holtz's career. So when South Carolina stunned then No. 9 Georgia in the second game of the 2000 season, it was a remarkable accomplishment. The Gamecocks continued their resurgence the next two years, going 17-7 and twice defeating Ohio State in the Outback Bowl.

Holtz is the only coach in South Carolina history with two bowl victories. He finished his six-year stint with the Gamecocks 33-37.

# Utah waits to learn its BCS bowl berth

BY DOUG ALDEN

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah's four-month campaign is over. Now all the Utes can do is wait for the returns.

And they're in a better position than they could ever have hoped.

"This is a greatest feeling in the world," Utes safety Morgan Scalley said after Utah completed an 11-0 regular season by beating rival Brigham Young 52-21 on Saturday night.

"To know how hard you've worked from the summer up until now, we weren't going to let this one get away," he said.

Scalley was sporting a big grin and an even bigger sombrero — a nod to the Fiesta Bowl, where the fifth-ranked Utes are expected to play Jan. 1.

Utah has unofficially clinched a Bowl Championship Series at-large bid, but where the Utes will end up won't be known for two weeks.

Representatives from the Fiesta, Sugar and Liberty bowls attended Saturday's game, although the Liberty is no longer a destination. As Mountain West Conference champion, the Utes are obligated to the Memphis game, but the league and bowl officials are working out an arrangement to free the team up for the BCS.

Barring a huge upset of top-ranked Southern California, the Rose Bowl will likely keep its traditional matchup of Big Ten vs. Pac-10. That leaves the Fiesta and Sugar, or maybe even the Orange Bowl — which will feature the BCS No. 1 and No. 2 teams according to the Dec. 5 final standings.

So could the Utes make the national title game? "That's a great question, and I haven't thought about it yet," Utah coach Urban Meyer said.

Maybe it's better if he doesn't try. Of the teams ahead of the Utes, California still has to play at Southern Mississippi on Dec. 4 in a game rescheduled because of a hurricane. Oklahoma and Auburn still have conference championships to be played, although both will be big favorites.

But one upset could have a huge impact on the BCS field.

"This team could be playing in the Orange Bowl. We don't know what's going to happen these next two weeks," Fiesta Bowl president John Junker said. "The one thing I will just guarantee is there will be one more surprise that nobody expects."

"For somebody to say 'Aw, they're all going to win,' it's never happened yet."



Utah head coach Urban Meyer is doused as his team beat BYU 52-21 Saturday. The team unofficially clinched a BCS at-large bid, and is likely headed to the Sugar or Fiesta Bowl.

The Utes aren't really worried about where they're headed.

Making the BCS is enough of an accomplishment. In six years of the system, only teams from the six power conferences that have automatic spots in the games and Notre Dame have played in the four games.

Utah is making history by becoming the first school from a mid-major conference to break into the system. And the Utes have proudly accepted the moniker of "BCS Strivers" all season while going 11-0.

"No Utah team in history has done that. We've just came out and proven that we are the top team," said receiver Steve Savoy, who ran for two touchdowns — including a 92-yard

run that really broke BYU, and caught a pass for another. "Whether they want to put us in the BCS or not, that's not in our hands."

Utah hasn't had a perfect season since going 8-0 in 1930. The 1940 Utes went 6-0-2, but no Utah team of the modern era has made a run like this. Ten years ago, the Utes finished 10-2 under former coach Ron McBride, who was fired after the 2002 season and replaced with Meyer.

Most of the Utes are still McBride recruits, and Meyer gave credit to his predecessor after the game.

"Coach McBride called me on Thursday and said I wish to God I was a part of this," and I told him, "You are a big part of this," Meyer said. "This all started with him."

DESERET MORNING NEWS/AF



# Busch wins Nextel Cup

## Roush driver loses wheel, still finishes fifth in season finale to secure first NASCAR title

BY JENNA FRYER

The Associated Press

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — The last time Kurt Busch cried in Victory Lane, it was partly because he realized it was one of the most hated drivers in NASCAR.

When the tears flowed Sunday at Homestead-Miami Speedway, it could have been because Busch realized it doesn't matter if he's popular.

Love him or hate him, Busch is a NASCAR champion.

The brash young driver wrapped up his first title Sunday by outdriving nine rivals in NASCAR's 10-race Chase for the Nextel Cup championship.

It capped a rollercoaster ride for Busch, a 26-year-old Las Vegas native considered an outsider in NASCAR. He doesn't look like the other competitors, he doesn't talk like them, and because he often comes across as cocky and arrogant, he isn't embraced like them.

When he was viciously booed after winning Bristol Motor Speedway last season — one week after Jimmy Spencer punched him in the face following a race — it became clear that Busch was NASCAR's newest villain.

Funny how none of that matters when the shiny silver Nextel Cup championship is sitting at your feet.

"It took me some time to understand the bigger picture," he said. "Just to be able to understand the

### Closest title finishes

Closest point finishes for Jimmie Johnson titles:

10 — Kurt Busch wins over Jimmie Johnson, 2004.  
11 — Alan Kulwicki wins over Bill Elliott, 1992.

12 — Rusty Wallace wins over Dale Earnhardt, 1989.

14 — Jeff Gordon wins over Dale Jarrett, 1997.

19 — Dale Earnhardt wins over Cale Yarborough, 1980.

bigger ethic and the bigger picture about racing at this level is one thing that I misunderstood the first couple of years."

Recognizing that was the key to Busch rising to the top of NASCAR in just his fourth season. He won the title by eight points over Jimmie Johnson — a difference of just two places in the season-ending race — and 16 over Jeff Gordon.

The dramatic finish was a fitting end to a new 10-man, 10-race Chase for the Nextel Cup Championship.

After years of lackluster championship battles, Busch came into the finale leading Johnson by 18 points and Gordon by 21, with Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Mark Martin also outside shots at the title.

Johnson and Gordon were racing for car owner Rick Hendrick, who lost four family members and valued employees when a plane crashed Oct. 24 en route to a race in Virginia.

But in a way, Busch was racing for Hendrick as well. His younger brother, Kyle, drives for Hendrick in the Busch Series.

"I'm choked up because there nothing harder in the NASCAR community than what we had to go through a couple weeks ago with Hendrick and the problem they had," Busch said. "I love them truly and I want to dedicate anything I can from this championship to them. My little brother was affected by this, so it hit home."

That's the maturity that had been lacking in Busch before.

The talent was always there — he has 11 Nextel Cup victories — but he was unpolished and inconsistent. Add it all up, and Busch was unable to win a title under NASCAR's points system.

But then NASCAR changed the rules, and it suited Busch's style perfectly.

More reserved since his feud with Spencer led sponsor Sharpie to make him take a "career counseling" course, he stayed low under the radar until the Chase began.

Then he made his move, and dodged every speed bump along the way, including breaking a wheel and losing a tire midway through Sunday's race.

"I was in stitches, sick to my stomach the last laps," Busch said. "I had been out there forever. I felt like I had the whole world on my shoulders and at the same time I felt I was alone."

"So many emotions today. To be able to pull through like we did and cap off an unbelievable season, it's just a great season."

Some will argue that it's not, that the championship race was manufactured by race.

He scrapped a system used for two decades to create a battle that came down to the final lap of the final race.

Boy, did he succeed.

Busch, Gordon and Johnson jockeyed for position for every one of the 271 laps. Every spot was critical, every point furiously calculated by their car owners and crew chiefs.

When the race went into overtime because a late caution made it impossible to finish in the original 267 laps, everyone strapped in for what was sure to be a wild shootout to the end.



Kurt Busch looks up at his trophy after winning the 2004 Nextel Cup Championship on Sunday at the Homestead Miami Speedway in Homestead, Fla. Busch finished fifth in the Ford 400 to clinch the title.

The contenders stacked up in a line, fender-to-fender, knowing what was at stake. Gordon was in third, Johnson was in fourth and Busch in fifth.

Busch's part was easy — stay out of trouble over the final four laps and the title was his.

Gordon and Johnson, who came in trailing Busch in the standings, knew they had to do much more: One of them needed to win the race to wrap up the title.

The field got the green flag, and the desperation was obvious in Gordon and Johnson, teammates and the closest of friends. Their Chevrolet's darted to the bottom of the track, then back to the top, each looking for the tiniest bit of room to squeeze through.

Johnson found a hole and skyrocketed past Gordon.

Neither of them saw Greg Biffle, Busch's teammate, race past them and steadily pull away.

With Biffle stealing the win they needed, and Busch staying put in fifth place, the championship was over.

"We beat the best of the best over 10 races, and to have my name along the best names in history, it means so much to me," Busch said.

Nothing could stop Busch from winning the title. Not a blown motor in Atlanta, not spinning out in Kansas, not wrecking in Charlotte, not even a wheel falling off in the biggest race of his life.

"This is what a team does to win a championship — they persevere," Busch said. "All year long, we've done things like this. Whether we put ourselves in a hole or whether we had a small problem."



Greg Biffle took the lead for the final time on the next-to-last lap to win the Ford 400 on Sunday and ensure teammate Kurt Busch won the Nextel Cup championship.

## Hendrick teammates Johnson, Gordon run out of laps, time

BY TIM REYNOLDS

The Associated Press

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Rick Hendrick's pain would not have been completely soothed by joining Jimmie Johnson or Jeff Gordon to celebrate a Nextel Cup championship.

Still, the drivers desperately wanted to deliver NASCAR's biggest prize to their owner.

Johnson and Gordon each led the Nextel Cup points race at various times during Sunday's season-ending Ford 400, but neither could finish the job and bring Hendrick Motorsports what would have been its sixth NASCAR title in 20 years. Johnson

finished in second place, eight points behind champion Kurt Busch.

"The one thing Jeff and I can both look back and say at our teams — and Rick in his heart feels this way, too — if we did everything we could possibly do," Johnson said. "When you go to bed at night knowing that, you sleep a lot easier."

Hendrick was at the race, watching his teams for the first time since an Oct. 24 plane crash near Martinsville, Va., killed 10, including his son, his brother, two technicians and employees. Both Johnson and Gordon said his presence added significance to what already was destined to be the year's most important race.

"It's a disappointment, no matter what," said Gordon, who ended the year third, 16 points shy of becoming the third NASCAR driver to win five series titles. "But knowing we had an opportunity to do something really special like that made it that much more meaningful — so it also makes it that much more disappointing."

The revamped NASCAR scoring system — a 10-race chase to the finish among the top 10 drivers — was designed with the hopes of adding extra intrigue to the season's final races, and its inaugural run delivered. Five drivers came to Homestead with a chance to claim the Nextel Cup title, four seeking their first championship.

Johnson was the hottest driver coming

in, with four victories in his last five starts. He headed another Sunday, and felt just short.

"For the loss of so many people that were there, it's amazing that we were able to finish where we did and have the comeback that we did," Johnson said. "I wish we could have gotten the job done, but we can go to bed tonight knowing that we gave 100 percent, that we gave everything we could."

Johnson led the series with eight wins this year, but will spend the next few months wondering how to get eight points better.

"If it's meant to be, it's meant to be," Johnson said. "And it wasn't in the cards for us this year."

# Prince dunks gives fans thrill

The Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Taysan Prince's soaring dunk in double overtime ensured that fans in Detroit were home talking about a thrilling Pistons victory instead of a brawl that led to record suspensions in the NBA.

The Pistons played Sunday for the first time since a melee broke out two nights earlier when Indiana's Ron Artest charged into the stands to get at spectators who hit him with a cup.

The only stirring in the viewing area Sunday was by fans cheering the Pistons' fourth-quarter comeback that resulted in a 117-116 victory over the expansion Charlotte Bobcats.

"Once it got tight, that's when the fans got into it," Pistons forward Rasheed Wallace said.

If not for the fight that started as an on-court shoving match between Artest and Detroit's Ben Wallace, the Pistons would have had their full complement of players and might've had an easier time with the Bobcats. Charlotte hasn't won a road game.

But as much as the Pistons wanted to forget the events of Friday night, they were reminders all over.

Detroit finished the game with just five players because three fouled out and four were serving suspensions. Ben Wallace drew a six-game ban, and Eddy Curry, Chauncey Billups, Elden Campbell and Derrick Coleman were suspended for one game.

## NBA scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
Boston	4	Pct	GB
Brown	4	500	—
New York	4	444	—
Philadelphia	4	444	—
New Jersey	4	444	—
Southeast Division			
Miami	8	727	—
Orlando	5	667	—
Washington	4	600	—
Charlotte	8	222	2 1/2
Central Division			
Indiana	7	700	—
Cleveland	4	550	—
Detroit	5	456	1 1/2
Chicago	6	400	—

### Western Conference

Southwest Division			
San Antonio	8	800	—
Phoenix	6	600	—
Houston	6	500	1 1/2
Memphis	6	400	—
New Orleans	4	300	—
Northwest Division			
Seattle	6	818	—
Utah	3	700	1 1/2
Portland	3	625	—
Minnesota	5	500	2 1/2
Pacific Division			
San Antonio	2	800	—
Sacramento	6	400	—
Golden State	6	400	—
L.A. Clippers	6	400	—
L.A. Lakers	6	400	—

Sunday's games			
Toronto 96, San Antonio 90			
Phoenix 122, L.A. Clippers 111			
Detroit 107, Seattle 116			
Miami 93, Philadelphia 83			
Detroit 117, Charlotte 116			
New York 98, Cleveland 88			
Portland 97, Portland 93			
Indiana 110, Dallas 82			
San Antonio 88, Milwaukee 79			
L.A. Lakers 102, Chicago 93			
Monday's games			
San Antonio at Memphis			
Golden State at Dallas			
Chicago at Phoenix			
Tuesday's games			
Boston at Indiana			
Toronto at Washington			
Detroit at Charlotte			
Atlanta at New York			
San Antonio at Memphis			
Seattle at Minnesota			
Phoenix at Denver			
Houston at Sacramento			
Golden State at L.A. Lakers			
New Orleans at Golden State			

## Roundup

"It got to a point where I thought we were going to play four on five," said Antonio McDyess, who had 24 points. "We really tried to just focus on playing basketball because this is our job and all the other stuff is out of our control at this point."

Prince took things into his own hands with 16.5 seconds left in the second overtime. His flying, left-handed slam gave the short-handed Pistons a win to talk about even though most of the postgame questions were about the brawl and Artest's season-long suspension that was handed down Sunday.

**Suns 122, Clippers 111:** Amaré Stoudemire overcame early foul trouble to score 33 points, and visiting Phoenix earned its fourth straight victory.

Joe Johnson had 23 points, and Shawn Marion 22 for the Suns, who improved to 8-2 and made going 9-1 in 1980-81.

**Raptors 96, Spurs 91:** Lamond Murray scored all 13 of his points in the fourth quarter, helping the Raptors overcome a 20-point deficit at home.

Ben Alston had 20 points, a season-high 11 assists and seven rebounds for the Raptors, who ended a five-game losing streak

and snapped San Antonio's six-game winning streak.

**Heat 93, 76ers 83:** Dwyane Wade scored 25 points and the Heat remained unbeaten against Eastern Conference opponents. Shaquille O'Neal had 19 points, 12 rebounds and six blocks for the Heat, who are 7-0 against the East and 1-3 against the Western Conference.

The 76ers played without Allen Iverson, who skipped the trip to Miami to nurse a bruised elbow.

**Celtics 102, SuperSonics 83:** Ricky Davis scored 25 points and Paul Pierce added 17 points and 10 rebounds to help the Celtics break visiting Seattle's nine-game winning streak.

**Knicks 98, Cavaliers 88:** At New York, James Crawford scored 13 of his 24 points during a fourth quarter in which the Knicks held LeBron James scoreless and barely kept him from his first career triple-double.

Crawford also had five assists, and Kurt Thomas had 16 points and 14 rebounds, helping New York end Cleveland's six-game winning streak. James finished with 13 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds.

**Rockets 97, Trail Blazers 93:** Tracy McGrady had 16 points and 11 assists, and Yao Ming led visiting Houston with 19 points. Portland's Zach Randolph had 28 points and 14 rebounds, his third double-double of the season.

**Kings 88, Bucks 79:** Peja Stojakovic scored 12 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and the host Kings made a late rally for their fifth straight victory.

**Nuggets 110, Mavericks 82:** Defensive specialist Greg Buckner scored a career-high 28 points and Carmelo Anthony helped to tie lead Denver at home.

Dallas got Erick Dampier and



Pistons forward Taysan Prince (22) dunks over Bobcats forward Emeka Okafor (50) and Gerald Wallace, left, in the second overtime.

javokovic scored 12 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and the host Kings made a late rally for their fifth straight victory.

**Nuggets 110, Mavericks 82:** Defensive specialist Greg Buckner scored a career-high 28 points and Carmelo Anthony helped to tie lead Denver at home.

Dallas got Erick Dampier and

Jason Terry back from injuries, but lost leading scorer and rebounder Dirk Nowitzki to a sprained left ankle in the second quarter.

**Lakers 102, Bulls 93:** At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant had 29 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, and the Lakers dropped Chicago to 0-8.

## Wednesday's games

Detroit at Cleveland			
New York at Toronto			
Philadelphia at Portland			
Portland at Orlando			
Seattle at Memphis			
Phoenix at Philadelphia			
Chicago at Utah			
Milwaukee at Phoenix			
Minnesota at Detroit			
New Jersey at L.A. Clippers			

## Thursday's games

**Sunday**  
**Raptors 96, Spurs 91**

**SAN ANTONIO** — Bowen 3-6 2-2 10, Duncan 3-19 10-15 26, Nesterovic 4-8 0-0 8, Ginobili 4-11 2-4 10, Parker 5-15 3-4 13, Barry 2-9 2-3 8, Brown 2-4 0-0 5, M.Rose 2-4 1-1 5, Udris 1-3 1-2 4, Horry 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 32-83 21-31 91.

## Sunday

San Antonio at Boston			
San Antonio	27	29	30
Toronto	27	17	33
Three-Point Goals—San Antonio 6-23			
Bowen 2-3, Barry 2-9, Udrih 1-1, Brown 1-2, Horry 0-1, Ginobili 0-3, Parker 0-4, Toronto 5-13 (Peterson 3-5, Murray 1-1, Alston 1-4, Carter 0-1, Rose 0-2). Fouled out—None. Rebounds—San Antonio 58 (Duncan 15, Toronto 51 (Bosh 10). Assists—San Antonio 21 (Parker 6), Toronto 20 (Alston 11). Total Fouls—San Antonio 20, Toronto 26. Technical Fouls—Toronto Defensive Three Second. A-19,264 (19,800).			

## Nuggets 110, Mavericks 82

Dallas — Howard 61, D-10, Henderson 24, Dallas 110, Mavericks 82			
Dallas 110, Mavericks 82			
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## Dallas 110, Mavericks 82

Dallas — Howard 61, D-10, Henderson 24, Dallas 110, Mavericks 82			
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## Knicks 98, Cavaliers 88

New York — James Crawford 13, Knicks 98, Cavaliers 88			
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## Celtics 102, Sonics 83

Seattle — Lewis 13, Celtics 102, Sonics 83			
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## Heat 93, 76ers 83

Miami — Wade 25, Heat 93, 76ers 83			
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## Portland — Abdul-Rahim 26, Portland 110, Bulls 93

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## Portland 110, Bulls 93

Portland — Abdul-Rahim 26, Portland 110, Bulls 93			
Portland 110, Bulls 93			

# Pacers shocked by 'riot'

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI  
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Pacers were frightened when spectators began hurling chairs, drinks, and ice at them in one of the most violent exchanges between players and fans in U.S. sports history.

"It was a scary situation," center David Harrison said. "It's literally being in a riot."

Ron Artest was suspended for the rest of the season Sunday, Stephen Jackson for 30 games, Jermaine O'Neal for 25, Ben Wallace for six, Anthony Johnson for five, and four players for one game apiece for their roles in Friday night's brawl at Detroit.

Pacers co-owner Herb Simon said he did not condone the fight, but "we do consider the action taken Sunday by the National Basketball Association to be unprecedented and inappropriate based on the circumstances."

After avoiding an on-court fight with Wallace late in the game, Artest bolted to the stands when he was hit by a cup thrown by a fan. Jackson and O'Neal also punched fans, who showered the Pacers with debris as they left the court. "I don't know what the regula-

tions are for these types of things, but maybe they need to be looked at more closely," Austin Croshere said after the six healthy and eligible Pacers lost to Orlando 86-83 on Saturday night. "You've seen it in baseball... it seems to be happening more and more."

Artest apologized on Sunday. He said he respected David Stern, but called the suspension unfair.

"It is very important to me that people understand that I didn't mean for the situation to turn out like it did," Artest said in a statement.

O'Neal's agent, Art Tellem, called his client's suspension an "outrageous decision" that singled out O'Neal "in an arbitrary and capricious way" and vowed to contest it.

Harrison was hit several times in the stands while trying to break up the mayhem. He said Artest responded instinctively.

"If someone is throwing something at you with intent to harm you, you're going to defend yourself," he said. "It doesn't matter if the person is a fan or whatever. I just wonder what would happen if we went to where they work and harassed them for 48 minutes to

an hour and then threw a beer at them when they were trying to leave. We'd go to jail."

Harrison worried the severity of the punishment would overshadow the fans' culpability.

"A message is going to be sent to the players, but around the league, I don't know how you send a message to the fans," Harrison said Saturday. "That's going to be the only travesty about this situation."

Things were just as scary as the Pacers left the Palace.

"There was a time at the bus where they were telling us to turn off the lights because they were afraid people would shoot at our bus," Harrison said.

Harrison dismissed the notion that because the players are paid handsomely they should be able to deal with such situations.

"We endured the verbal abuse, did we not?" he said. "We do not get paid millions of dollars to get stuff thrown at us. Nobody gets paid money to get stuff thrown at you unless you're a circus clown sitting in a booth. That's not our job."

"I don't care how much money I'm getting paid. If you're trying to harm me, and I'm in a position to defend myself, I'm going to defend myself."

## Rap: Pistons likely to revoke tickets

RAP, FROM BACK PAGE

Pacers co-owner Herb Simon said he did not condone the fight, but "we do consider the action taken Sunday by the National Basketball Association to be unprecedented and inappropriate based on the circumstances."

Stern said that Friday night's fracas represented "the worst" of the 20,000 to 25,000 games he has presided over in his more than

two decades as commissioner. "To watch the out-of-control fans in the stands was disgusting, but it doesn't excuse our players going into the stands," Stern said.

For Detroit's game Sunday against the Charlotte Bobcats — its first outing since the fracas — the team doubled the number of armed police to about 20 in the arena and increased other arena security personnel by about 25 percent.

When both the Pistons and Bobcats went to the locker room and returned to the court, they were escorted by police — one officer in front of each team, and one behind.

Unarmed personnel in blue and red shirts were sprinkled throughout the arena in suburban Detroit. Those assigned to stand near the court turned their back on the game to watch the fans in the stands.

Pistons CEO Tom Wilson said there's a good chance that tickets

would be revoked from any season-ticket holder who was involved in the fight. He also hoped the franchise sent a message about how serious it was about preventing safety problems in the future.

"That's why we ratcheted up our security," Wilson said. "If you were sitting at home or you were here watching what happened the other night, you might have thought, 'Can I take my wife there? Can I take my kids there? Is that a safe environment?'"

The most recent example of an NBA player going into the stands and punching a fan came in 1995, when Vernon Maxwell of the Houston Rockets pummeled a spectator in Portland, Ore. The league suspended him for 10 games and fined him \$20,000.

Among the harshest non-drug-related penalties in NBA history was a one-year suspension of Latrell Sprewell last year reduced to 68 games — for choking Golden State Warriors coach P.J. Carlesimo at practice.



Falcons quarterback Michael Vick (7) runs by the New York Giants' tight end Fred Robbins (98) as Falcons' Todd Weiner (74) looks on.

## Vick extinguishes Manning's spark

BY TOM CANAVAN  
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Eli Manning brought a spark and a sense of excitement back to the struggling New York Giants.

It just wasn't enough to counter what Michael Vick did for the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday in the much-hyped meeting of two former No. 1 draft picks.

Vick ran for 104 yards and threw two first-half touchdown passes to Alge Crumpler as the Falcons spoiled Manning's first start with a 14-10 win.

"I just told him he played a great game," Vick said of his post-game meeting with Manning after the Falcons (8-2) won their third straight.

"His game, there is a lot of hype, a lot of pressure on him," said Vick, the No. 1 pick in 2001. "He came out and played with poise. He made some plays you can't expect a rookie quarterback to make."

What was impressive was the way Manning rallied the Giants (5-5) after a dismal first half. He led two second-half scoring drives and drove New York to the Falcons' 42 in the final minute before losing the ball on downs.

"I think I'm excited for him," Giants halfback Tiki Barber said of Manning, who was 17-of-27 for 162 yards and two interceptions. "I think I am excited for where this team can be."

Actually, both teams sounded excited about the future.

Atlanta has a four-game lead over New Orleans and Tampa Bay in the NFC South heading into the final six games.

"Mike wins," Falcons coach Jim Mora said. "You look at this record, it's not always pretty in terms of statistics and quality of beating rating. You might need to throw those things out when you

talk about Mike Vick. He just wins."

Despite three straight losses and four in five games, New York is in the mix for a wild-card playoff berth, especially if Manning continues to improve.

"I was disappointed the way I started the game," said Manning, who had several passes dropped by Giants receivers. "I was better in the second half."

A lot better. A 6-yard touchdown pass to Jeremy Shockey got New York within 14-7 in the third quarter and another long drive set up a 24-yard field goal by Steve Christie with 6:29 to play.

Manning had one final shot to stage a remarkable comeback after the Giants took over at their 25 with 1:52 to play. Passes to Shockey and the Hilliard and a 13-yard run by Barber got the Giants to the Atlanta 42, but linebacker Keith Brooking broke up a fourth-down pass to seal the win.

"As a quarterback you want to have the ball in your hands with a chance to win the game," Manning said. "We just didn't get it done."

The Giants might have fared better had referee Jeff Triplett not called a roughing-the-passer penalty against Carlos Emmons with about 5 minutes left. Instead of punting from their 9, the Falcons moved the ball before punting and the Giants took it at their 25.

"It was a terrible call in my eyes," Emmons said, adding he hit Vick in the chest with his hands.

The pass Manning likely wanted back was a slant that was intercepted by defensive end Brady Smith late in the third quarter with New York at the Atlanta 28.

"It was a rookie mistake," said Manning, who got the starting job over Kurt Warner was benched Monday. "I should have known that."

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# NFL scoreboard

## American Conference

East		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	7	0	0	0	.889	277	164
Buffalo	6	0	0	0	.857	212	165
Buffalo	6	0	0	0	.400	180	183
Buffalo	6	0	0	0	.100	140	210
South		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	7	0	0	0	.739	239	192
Jacksonville	7	0	0	0	.692	186	181
Houston	6	0	0	0	.400	198	239
Tennessee	6	0	0	0	.400	186	212
North		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	0	.900	340	161
Baltimore	7	0	0	0	.700	204	240
Cincinnati	6	0	0	0	.400	183	243
Cleveland	6	0	0	0	.400	186	212
West		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	3	0	0	0	.700	233	167
San Diego	3	0	0	0	.700	205	190
Kansas City	3	0	0	0	.500	233	220
Oakland	3	0	0	0	.300	182	270

## National Conference

East		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	5	0	0	0	.692	166	158
N.Y. Giants	5	0	0	0	.500	196	172
Dallas	4	0	0	0	.500	182	182
Washington	3	0	0	0	.300	111	178
South		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	8	0	0	0	.200	208	234
New Orleans	6	0	0	0	.400	211	218
Carolina	6	0	0	0	.400	202	212
Carolina	3	0	0	0	.300	196	222
North		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	6	0	0	0	.600	256	226
Minnesota	6	0	0	0	.600	246	240
Minnesota	6	0	0	0	.500	182	200
Detroit	6	0	0	0	.400	183	216
West		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	6	0	0	0	.600	230	185
Seattle	6	0	0	0	.500	204	254
Arizona	4	0	0	0	.400	177	214
San Francisco	4	0	0	0	.100	175	236

## Sunday games

Baltimore vs. Dallas	10	10	10
Buffalo vs. St. Louis	17	17	17
Indianapolis @ Chicago	10	10	10
Denver @ New Orleans	13	13	13
N.Y. Jets @ Cleveland	7	7	7
Carolina vs. Arizona	10	10	10
Tennessee vs. Jacksonville	15	15	15
Minnesota @ Detroit	19	19	19
Atlanta vs. San Francisco	3	3	3
Seattle @ Miami	17	17	17
San Diego @ Oakland	17	17	17
Atlanta @ N.Y. Giants	17	17	17
Philadelphia vs. Washington	6	6	6
Green Bay @ Houston	13	13	13

## Monday games

New England at Kansas City	10	10	10
Indianapolis at Detroit	10	10	10
Chicago at Dallas	10	10	10

## Sunday, Nov. 28

Tennessee at Houston	10	10	10
Atlanta at Pittsburgh	10	10	10
Philadelphia @ N.Y. Giants	10	10	10
San Diego @ Kansas City	10	10	10
Tampa Bay at Carolina	10	10	10
San Francisco @ New Orleans	10	10	10
Seattle vs. Seattle	10	10	10
N.Y. Jets at Arizona	10	10	10
Baltimore at New England	10	10	10
Oakland at Denver	10	10	10
St. Louis at Green Bay	10	10	10

## Sunday

### Ravens 30, Cowboys 10

Dallas	3	0	0	7-10
Baltimore	10	10	10	16-30

## Third Quarter

DaF-Gundiff 19, 35:3.

DaB-Dinkins 17 pass from Boller (Stover kick), 10:42.

DaB-Dinkins 31 pass from Boller (Stover kick), 40.

A-B924.

## Fourth Quarter

DaF-Gundiff 30, 11:22.

DaB-Williams 44 interception return (Stover kick), 10:42.

DaF-Gundiff 1 yard run (kick failed), 9:46.

DaB-Robinson 1 pass from Henson (Cundiff kick), 40.

A-B924.

## Final Score

First downs 16

Total Net Yards 222

Passing 228 21-29

Rushing 12 10-29

Kickoff Returns 6-141 3-42

Interceptions 4-17 1-0

Comp-Att-Int 15-26 2-33-0

Sacked-Yards Lost 2-28

Fumbles-Lost 4-17 5-2

Penalties-Yards 10-100 3-30

Time of Possession 32:49 26:11

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing-Dallas, J. Jones 30, Henson 17, George 3, Testaverde 1. Baltimore, C-Taylor 23, S. Mims 11, D. Brown 3, Lewis 2.

Passing-Dallas, Testaverde 9-27, 129, Henson 6-6-47, Baltimore, C-Taylor 23, S. Mims 11, D. Brown 3, Lewis 2.

Receiving-Dallas, Morgan 4-42, Coffer 3-30, Lewis 2-12, Henson 1-11, Barnes 1-10, Williams 1-7, Taylor 6-68, Wilson 2-23, Ricard 2-5, Moore 1-24, Lewis 1-1.

Mixed field goal-Dallas, Cundiff 41 (WL).

## Bills 37, Rams 17

East		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
St. Louis	6	0	0	0	.833	217	107
St. Louis	6	0	0	0	.833	217	107
St. Louis	6	0	0	0	.833	217	107
St. Louis	6	0	0	0	.833	217	107
South		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
St. Louis	6	0	0	0	.833	217	107
St. Louis	6	0	0	0	.833	217	107
St. Louis	6	0	0	0	.833	217	107
St. Louis	6	0	0	0	.833	217	107
North		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
St. Louis	6	0	0	0	.833	217	107
St. Louis	6	0	0	0	.833	217	107
St. Louis	6	0	0	0	.833	217	107
St. Louis	6	0	0	0	.833	217	107
West		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
St. Louis	6	0	0	0	.833	217	107
St. Louis	6	0	0	0	.833	217	107
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Receiving-Dallas, Morgan 4-42, Coffer 3-30, Lewis 2-12, Henson 1-11, Barnes 1-10, Williams 1-7, Taylor 6-68, Wilson 2-23, Ricard 2-5, Moore 1-24, Lewis 1-1.

Mixed field goal-Dallas, Cundiff 41 (WL).

## Jets 10, Browns 7

Smith 3-28, Droughns 2-25, Williams 1-12, <b>Brian</b> 1-12, Stallworth 10-122, Horn Williams 3-25, Lewis 1-5, Bills -None.	0, Browns 7
Second Quarter ss from Garcia (Dawson Third Quarter 9:06. Fourth Quarter 11 passes from Carter (Brien	Titans 18
NVJ C 235 216	Tennessee Jacksonville
	First Ten-FG Anderson Jac -FG Scoobie 35 Ten-Mason 37 Ten-Kick 68 pa Jac- FG Scoobie 35
	Third Jac -Garrard 5 Garcia 9-12, Favors, 9-12, Carr 3-12



# Eagles claim another NFC East title

BY DAN GELSTON

The Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA** — There was another touchdown pass from Donovan McNabb to Terrell Owens. There was another easy victory over a division rival. Now the Philadelphia Eagles are one win away from another division championship.

McNabb tied a career high with four touchdown passes to lead Philadelphia to a 28-6 victory over the Redskins on Sunday.

The Eagles can clinch their fourth consecutive NFC East title with a victory at the New York Giants next Sunday.

"It says a lot about our organization, it says a lot about Coach (Andy) Reid, it says a lot about the players that are here," McNabb said.

Philadelphia is 9-1 for the first

time since the 1980 season, when they opened 11-1 and went to the Super Bowl.

While division titles seem routine, so are NFC title game losses. The expectations for this season after three straight championship defeats are Super Bowl or bust. While critics focus on the postseason failures, safety Brian Dawkins said it was time to enjoy the ride and not worry about where it ends.

"I don't want to talk about what we didn't do last year," Dawkins said. "I want to enjoy the game and if we get back to that point, I'm going to enjoy that game."

Philadelphia had plenty to enjoy against Washington thanks to McNabb.

McNabb threw two TD passes to Brian Westbrook and one each to Owens and Chad Lewis. It was

his second straight four-TD performance, fourth of the season and sixth in his six-year career.

Philadelphia has won seven of its 10 games this season by double-digit margins.

"They've been dominating this division," Redskins coach Joe Gibbs said. "They're well-coached, well-balanced and their quarterback is phenomenal."

McNabb, making his first start of the season after replacing the ineffective Mark Brunell last week, couldn't revive Washington's sputtering offense.

Ramsey finished 21-for-34 for 162 yards and an interception. Clinton Portis ran 17 times for 37 yards.

"I think there's always things I think I can do better," Ramsey said. "I felt for the most part I was fairly accurate."

The Redskins (3-7) haven't

scored more than 18 points in a game this season, the longest a team has gone without scoring 20 points in a game since the 1930s.

McNabb ran five times for 34 yards, was sacked three times, lost a fumble and threw an interception in the first 35 minutes. He completed 9 of 12 passes for 93 yards and three scores the rest of the way. McNabb was 18-for-34 for 222 yards before Koy Detmer came in to finish the game.

McNabb's 1-yard TD pass to Westbrook took the Eagles ahead 21-6 with 9:01 left. His 14-yard TD toss to Westbrook capped the scoring.

The Eagles took a 14-6 lead on McNabb's 10-yard TD pass to Owens in the third quarter.

Owens became just the second receiver in NFL history to score 13 TDs in five different seasons, joining Jerry Rice — who has done it eight times.



The Eagles' Brian Westbrook spikes the ball after a touchdown reception Sunday in Philadelphia.

## NFL SCORES, FROM PAGE 28

### Eagles 28, Redskins 6

Washington 3 3 0 6-6  
Philadelphia 7 0 7 14-4

Was—FG Kiffin 35, 7:59  
Phl—Lewis 2 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 26

**Second Quarter**  
Was—FG Kiffin 24, 4:27

**Third Quarter**  
Phl—Owens 10 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 3:06

**Fourth Quarter**  
Phl—Westbrook, 1 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 8:56

Phl—Westbrook 14 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 6:54

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# Bus picks up Steelers, QB Roethlisberger

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Jerome Bettis and Pittsburgh's defense made quite a posse.

Bettis ran for 129 yards and the Steelers' blitzing defense created havoc Sunday, setting up a 19-14 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals that kept the NFL's longest winning streak growing.

Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger played like a rookie, so the 32-year-old running back and the old-style defense bailed him out in Pittsburgh's eighth straight win.

The Steelers are 9-1 for the first time since 1978, when they won their third Super Bowl in five years.

"Everybody expects us to be flawless," Bettis said.

"Sometimes you're not going to have your best game. That's when you have to find a way to win."

They took an old, familiar path: run the ball and let the defense do the rest, taking the pressure off the kid quarterback.

Roethlisberger has earned comparisons to Terry Bradshaw during his remarkable introductory season with eight starts, all wins.

This time, he looked much more like a green rookie than a black-and-gold legend.

The Bengals (4-6) came at him from all sides, had a season-high seven sacks and forced him to make poor decisions. Three times, he scuttled scoring chances by taking sacks.

The Bengals (4-6) came at him from all sides, had a season-high seven sacks and forced him to make poor decisions. Three times, he scuttled scoring chances by taking sacks.

"On a lot of the sacks, I take the blame," said Roethlisberger, who was 15-for-21 for 138 yards, but lost 54 yards on sacks. "I wasn't flustered, just disappointed in my play. But it's a sign of a good team when you can win when you don't play well."

**Colts 41, Bears 10** At Chicago, Peyton Manning threw four more touchdown passes to reach the 33rd, 13th of Dan Marino's NFL record set in 1994.

Edgerrin James punished the Bears with 204 yards on 23 carries. Both he and Manning sat out the fourth quarter.

The Colts (7-3) feasted on five turnovers by the Bears (4-6), four by shaky rookie quarterback Craig Krenzel, who lost two fumbles and threw two interceptions as the Bears' third starter.

**Ravens 30, Cowboys 10** At Baltimore, the Ravens (7-3) were without star running back Jamal Lewis (ankle) for most of the game but came in on the second half against Dallas (3-7), led by the inspiring Kyle Boller.

Showing the pride and confidence of a rapidly maturing quarterback, Boller threw two touchdown passes in the third quarter. He



Pittsburgh Steelers running back Jerome Bettis (36) is tackled by the Bengals' Brian Simmons Sunday in Cincinnati. Bettis rushed for 129 yards in the Steelers' 19-14 victory.

went 23-for-34 for 232 yards in his third straight game without an interception.

**Bills 37, Rams 17** Drew Bledsoe hit tight end Mark Campbell for three touchdowns, answering critics calling for rookie J.P. Losman to take over as starter for Buffalo (4-6).

The three touchdowns were the most Bledsoe has thrown since he had three in Buffalo's 38-21 win over Miami on Dec. 1, 2002.

Nate Clements returned a punt 86 yards for a score. St. Louis fell to 5-5.

**Chargers 23, Raiders 17** At Oakland, the Chargers (7-3) won their fourth straight as Antonio Gates had eight receptions for 101 yards and a touchdown and LaDainian Tomlinson ran for 164 yards and a score on 37 carries.

San Diego maintained a tie for first place in the AFC West with Denver.

Kerry Collins won 18-for-30 for 227 yards and two touchdowns for the Raiders (3-7) and didn't throw an interception for the first time in nine games.

**Broncos 34, Saints 13** At New Orleans, Reuben Droughns ran for 166 yards and a score, Jake Plummer threw for 224 yards and the Broncos (7-3) stayed tied with San Diego.

New Orleans (4-6) has dropped five of its last seven, mainly because of a defense that is allowing almost 30 points a game — second most in the NFL — and the most total yards.

Owner Tom Benson criticized his team Sunday.

"It's the worst performance I've seen by them in the 20 years that I've owned them,"

Benson said. "They looked just like high school kids."

**Titans 19, Jaguars 15** At Jacksonville, Steve McNair returned for the first time in a month, throwing a touchdown pass and directing two other scoring drives in going 18-for-30 for 209 yards despite signs of rust.

McNair was picked off twice and was sacked three times, including once for a safety with about 6 minutes to play. The safety gave the Jaguars (6-4) a 15-10 lead, but McNair led a 59-yard touchdown drive in 37 seconds that put the Titans (4-6) ahead 16-15 and then ran for the 2-point conversion.

**Jets 10, Browns 7** At Cleveland, Quincy Carter's 11-yard touchdown pass to Justin McCareins with 5:32 remaining gave the Jets (7-3) a win in the week after poor play calling and clock management cost them a game.

New York's LaMont Jordan, filling in for a banged-up Curtis Martin, rushed for 61 yards in the fourth quarter to hand the Browns (3-7) their fourth straight loss.

Martin rushed for 88 yards on 17 carries. In the first quarter, he went over 1,000 this season and joined Hall of Famer Barry Sanders as the only players in NFL history to begin their careers with 10 straight 1,000-yard seasons.

**Vikings 22, Lions 19** At Minneapolis, the Vikings (6-4) stayed atop the NFC North and ended a three-game losing streak as they shut out Detroit in the second half and overcame a 12-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

Daunte Culpepper completed 22 of 32 passes for 233 yards, two touchdowns and an interception in Minnesota.

Eddie Drummond ran the opening kickoff back for a 92-yard touchdown for the Lions (4-6), who dropped their fourth in a row.

**Panthers 33, Cardinals 10** Career backup Nick Gonsky ran for 121 yards and three touchdowns and the Panthers (3-7) jumped to a 28-point halftime lead in winning at home for the first time. Muhsin Muhammad added two TD catches.

Levi Fitzgerald had a touchdown catch for the Cardinals (4-6), who started quarterback Shaun King for the benched Josh McCown.

**Buccaners 35, 49ers 3** At Tampa, Joe Jurevics scored his first two touchdowns since last year's season opener, on passes from Brian Griese. Jurevics missed most of last season, as well as the first six games of 2004, with knee and back injuries that required surgery.

The victory was the fourth in six games after an 0-4 start for Tampa Bay.

The 49ers (1-9) have lost five straight and were held to just 197 yards offense.

# Favie rallies Packers in fourth

## Longwell kicks winning FG as Texans held scoreless in second half

BY JOEL ANDERSON

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — With time minutes left and the game tied, Brett Favre had the ball and a tiring defense in front of him.

The Houston Texans couldn't have been in a much worse situation.

"Favre is a guy that you never have enough points when you play against him," Texans coach Don Capers said.

Favre led the Packers all the way back in the fourth quarter and Ryan Longwell kicked a 46-yard field goal as time expired, sending Green Bay to its fifth straight win, 16-13 over the Houston Texans on Sunday.

Favre was 6-for-7 for 42 yards on the final drive — the only incompletion came when he spiked the ball to stop the clock — to set up Longwell's field goal. Longwell responded with his second game-winning kick in as many

weeks, completing Green Bay's rally from a 10-point deficit in the final quarter.

"It was a clutch situation," Packers coach Mike Sherman said of Longwell. "And he's pretty strong in those situations."

Favre was also pretty clutch, going 33-for-50 for 383 yards with two interceptions and a touchdown to Houston native Donald Driver in the fourth period. Driver had quite a homecoming, catching 10 passes for 144 yards.

The Packers sputtered on offense throughout the first three quarters, clearly missing injured star tailback Adrian Peterson, who was knocked out of the game with a rib injury in the second quarter. He finished with 15 yards on only five carries.

Relying on a third-string tailback (Tony Fisher) and a guy called up from the practice squad Saturday (Walter Williams), Favre was forced to shoulder much of the offensive burden.

"At one point, we were totally out of running backs," Favre said. "We had to alter our gameplan some and had to abandon our running game a little bit."

That proved to be a good move. Favre finally got going in the fourth quarter, leading the Packers on a seven-play, 81-yard drive with two interceptions and a touchdown pass to Driver. Favre made a deft pump fake on the play, fooling rookie cornerback Dunta Robinson and giving Driver a wide-open path into the end zone.

The Packers scored again on Longwell's 38-yard field goal midway through the quarter, tying it at 13.

Favre failed on his first attempt to break the tie, throwing an interception to Robinson, who was running step for step with receiver Antonio Chatman.

But the Texans went three plays and out for the third straight time, and Favre predictably came up big.

"Brett is probably the best quarterback in the game during the two-minute drives," Driver said. "He told us that we had to make a play and that's what we did."

Green Bay (6-4) stayed tied with Minnesota for first place in the NFC North.

The Texans (4-6) lost their third straight and learned a valuable lesson about letting a veteran team hang around.

"You can't give a great quarterback like that anything," Robinson said. "That's Captain Comeback the Second with John Elway."

Texans quarterback David Carr started fast, but finished with a thud.

Midway through the second quarter, Carr connected with Andre Johnson for a 49-yard pass to the Green Bay 6. Carr found Darnell Davis in the flat on the next play for a 7-3 lead.

At halftime, Carr was 8-for-15 for 115 yards. After the break, he



Green Bay Packers kicker Ryan Longwell (8) watches his game-winning 46-yard field goal on Sunday against the Texans.

went 5-for-11 for 49 yards as the Texans were so bad on offense the crowd started booing. Davis was held to 65 yards on 21 carries.

"To go out and not score anything in the second half is not acceptable," Texans right guard Todd Wade said. "It's embarrassing."

# Seahawks back atop NFC West with win over Miami

BY TIM KORTE

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Sometimes, the Seattle Seahawks look unstoppable.

At others, they look horrible. Just the same, the resilient Seahawks are back atop the NFC West.

Michael Boulware intercepted A.J. Feeley's pass and returned it 63 yards for a touchdown with 56 seconds remaining, lifting Seattle to a thrilling 24-17 win over the Miami Dolphins on Sunday.

With St. Louis (5-5) losing at Buffalo, the Seahawks (6-4) reclaimed first place in their division. Getting a win, however, was the most important thing for visibly relieved coach Mike Holmgren.

"Any time you can win a game, steal a game, it's huge," Holmgren said. "I expect to do better in a game, and we didn't do it today. That's troublesome to me right now. I can still enjoy the win and grind over a few of the missed opportunities."

It was another tough loss for Miami (1-9), which will stay out West to prepare for next week. The Dolphins traveled straight to San Francisco, where they'll spend the holiday week getting ready to face the 49ers.

"We've lost nine games this year and this is the one that hurts more than any of them," tight end Randy McMichael said. "We fought so hard. ... It hurts worse be-



Seattle Seahawks' Jerry Rice, right, looks back as Miami Dolphins' Sam Madison (29) gives chase in the third quarter Sunday in Seattle.

cause we can't go home and see our loved ones."

The Dolphins could have had this one.

Seattle converted just 3-for-14 third-down opportunities, failing on a key try at the 50-yard line midway through the fourth quarter.

The Seahawks allowed big plays on punt

and kickoff coverage, yet Boulware saved the biggest play for the end.

"I was able to read the quarterback's eyes," Boulware said. "I was able to get a good jump on the ball."

Feeley, hobbled with a sore right hip for most of the game, was looking for Chris Chambers on the right side when Boulware

caught the ball in stride. It was the fourth time this season Feeley has had an interception go back for a TD, and this one spoiled the debut of interim coach Jim Bates.

"I should have cut my losses and thrown it away," Feeley said.

As Boulware streaked past the Seattle bench, Holmgren turned and breathed a huge sigh of relief.

"What a wonderful play," Holmgren said. "We needed that so bad."

It was a gritty effort by Feeley, who played in severe pain after getting hurt in the second quarter. He directed a 48-yard drive in nine plays, and Orlando Mare's 39-yard field goal made it 17-all with 2:20 remaining.

Seattle, which led 17-7 at halftime, was crisp in the first quarter but soon struggled with Trent Dilfer at quarterback. Dilfer made his first start since Oct. 27, 2002, because Matt Hasselbeck was sidelined with a sore right thigh.

"I wasn't comfortable," said Dilfer, who completed 14 of 28 passes for 196 yards with one TD and two interceptions. "I didn't see the field the way I normally do. I usually see things and don't get tricked."

After Mare tied it at 17, Dilfer overthrew Jerry Rice and Shaun Alexander, then he was sacked by Jason Taylor and Darío Romero.

Mare got the ball back, but Boulware made sure Feeley wouldn't finish the comeback.

## Sunday's NFL stars:

### Quarterbacks

- Peyton Manning, Colts, went 17-of-28 for 211 yards and four touchdowns in a 41-10 win over Chicago.
- Aaron Brooks, Saints, set team records for completions and attempts, going 36-of-60 for 377 yards, but was intercepted three times and sacked twice in a 34-13 loss to Denver.
- Tom Bledsoe, Redskins, went 15-of-24 for 185 yards and two touchdowns passes to tight end Mark Campbell in a 37-17 win over St. Louis. The two touchdowns passes were the most Bledsoe has thrown since he had three in a 38-21 win over Miami on Dec. 1, 2002.
- Donovan McNabb, Eagles, tied a career high with four touchdown passes in a 26-6 win over Washington. McNabb was 18-of-26 for 222 yards in his second straight four-TD performance, fourth of the season and sixth in his six-year career.
- Michael Vick, Falcons, ran for 104 yards and threw two first-half touchdown passes to Alge Crumpler to lead the Falcons to a 14-10 win over the Giants. It was his third career 100-yard game.



### Running backs

- Edgerrin James, Colts, had 204 yards and a touchdown on 23 carries in a 41-10 win over Chicago.
- Reuben Droughins, Broncos, ran for 166 yards and a 51-yard touchdown in a 34-13 win over the Saints.
- LaDainian Tomlinson, Chargers, ran for 144 yards and a score on 37 carries in a 23-17 win over the Raiders.
- Jerome Bettis, Steelers, ran for 129 yards on 29 carries in a 19-14 win over Cincinnati, passing Tony Dorsett for fifth place on the NFL rushing list.
- Nick Gelsinger, Panthers, ran for 121 yards on 22 carries and three first-half scores in a 35-10 win over Arizona.
- Michael Pittman, Bucs, had 106 yards on 21 carries with two touchdowns for his third 100-yard rushing effort in the past four games in a 35-3 win over San Francisco.

- Dante Stallworth, Saints, had 122 yards and a touchdown on 10 catches in a 34-13 loss to Denver.
- Muhsin Muhammad, Browns, had six catches for 118 yards and two touchdowns in a 35-10 win over Arizona.
- Antonio Davis, Chargers, had eight receptions for 181 yards and a touchdown in a 23-17 win over the Raiders. He has nine TDs this season.

- Reggie Wayne, Colts, had 106 yards and two touchdowns on six receptions in a 41-10 win over Chicago.



AP photos

# Freshman leads Virginia's upset of Arizona

The Associated Press

Sean Singletary was a sophomore in high school the last time Arizona played so poorly.

Singletary, Virginia's highly touted freshman point guard, had 15 points and made several big plays Sunday night in the Cavaliers' 78-60 upset victory over the No. 10 Wildcats.

It was Arizona's lowest point total since Dec. 15, 2001, when Michigan State defeated the Wildcats 74-60 in East Lansing, Mich.

Arizona, which led Division I in scoring last season, shot just 39.7 percent against Virginia. The Wildcats missed 19 of 24 from beyond the arc and had 21 turnovers.

"They'll need to shake it off quickly — Late Olson's team takes on Michigan in the Pre-season NIT semifinals Wednesday night in New York."

"You have nightmare games like this, and we've got one nightmare out of the way, I guess," Olson said.

Singletary has the Cavaliers (2-0) suddenly dreaming of making noise in the ACC after being picked to finish eighth. He shot 6-for-11 from the field, had eight assists — many drawing oohs from the crowd — six steals and five rebounds.

"We just have something to prove," Singletary said. "I know a lot of people are overlooking us."



They picked up to be in the bottom of the ACC. We're just going to stay humble about this win.

"We're in the beginning of the season, so it's nothing to be all hyped up about. We're going to stay humble and go to practice and work hard."

Virginia led 34-22 at halftime and the Wildcats never got any closer than nine in the second half.

The Wildcats' last challenge came when they closed to 67-58 on two free throws by Channing Frye with 3:15 left, but Singletary penetrated for a layup, then rebounded a miss by Salim Stoudamire and drew a foul. He made both shots to push the margin to 71-58.

Devin Smith led the Cavaliers with 17 points. Frye led Arizona with 17 points, Hassan Adams had 14 and Stoudamire 13, nearly 10 below his average.

"Virginia outplayed us in every area you want to talk about," Olson said as he scanned the box score. "It seemed like any time that we went into the middle, they came out with the ball. They did a really nice job."

**No. 6 Illinois 91, Florida A&M 60:** Dee Brown scored 20 points,

all in the first half, to lead the Illini at home.

Brown finished 8-for-8 and had four three-pointers as the Illini rolled to a 58-29 halftime lead. All five Illini starters scored in double figures to help Illinois improve to 2-0.

**No. 12 Mississippi St. 99, Nicholls St. 69:** Lawrence Roberts had the first triple-double in Mississippi State history.

Playing with a mace protecting his broken nose, Roberts finished with 18 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds for the Bulldogs (4-1), who sealed the win in their home opener with a 20-7 run early in the second half.

**No. 18 Alabama 85, North Texas 71:** At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Chuck Davis scored a career-high 25 points, and the Tide shot 73 percent from the floor in the first half.

Earnest Shelton added 17 points for Alabama (2-0). Ronald Steele scored 14 points and Kennedy Winston had 13.

**No. 25 Gonzaga 78, Montana 62:** Sean Mallon scored 21 points and grabbed seven rebounds, and Gonzaga overcame sloppy shooting to beat visiting Montana.

Gonzaga (2-0) also got 20 points and eight rebounds from Ronny Turiaf. Adam Morrison had 19 points and Derek Raivio added 13 assists.



THE DAILY PROGRESS/AP

Virginia's Sean Singletary drives to the basket between Arizona's Hassan Adams, left, and Salim Stoudamire during Virginia's 78-60 win.

# Lucky 3 makes Federer the master in men's tennis

BY MICHAEL A. LUTZ

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Roger Federer started the week recuperating from a torn thigh muscle and ended it with a strong hold on the No. 1 ranking.

The top-seeded Federer won a record 13th straight final Sunday, beating Lleyton Hewitt 6-3, 6-2 in the title match of the ATP Masters Cup.

Federer's victory broke the record he shared with Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe. He ended the season with 17 straight match victories, and his 74 match victories ties Andy Roddick for the most on tour this year.

"It's been an incredible season, like a fairy tale," Federer said.

Hewitt, the Australian former No. 1, lost to Federer six times this year, including in the finals of the U.S. Open.

"For a long time now, my game's matched up pretty well," Hewitt said. "Even this week, it's been good enough to beat nearly everyone but one guy. You know, the last two big tournaments — the U.S. Open and here — the only guy I've run into who's been better has been Roger Federer."

Federer's winning percentage of .925 is the best since Ivan Lendl had the same 74-6 record in 1986. McEnroe has the record with a .965 percentage and an 82-3 record in 1984.

Federer is proud of his accomplishment.

"Early in my career, you know, I was struggling with consistency," Federer said. "I mean you couldn't get more consistent than I was this year. For me, this is incredible."

Federer, who earned \$1,250,000, became the first player since Lendl in 1986-87 to win consecutive Masters Cup ti-



Roger Federer of Switzerland returns a shot in the first set against Lleyton Hewitt in their Tennis Masters Cup finals match Sunday. Federer won his record 13th straight final.

ties without losing a match. Federer also won his 22nd tournament since 2000, the most of any player in that time. Hewitt has 21.

Federer has won on all surfaces. His victory Sunday gave him a 46-4 record on

hard courts.

"I've proven on all surfaces everywhere in the world that I can win the title," Federer said. "I think that makes it very special, this whole year, because the season I've had and I've basically won on all conti-

nents."

Rain delayed the tournament throughout the week and did so again Sunday. The start was delayed almost three hours and the first set lasted only 27 minutes, before rain stopped play with Federer leading 5-2.

Federer served flawlessly early on, missing only nine serves in the first set and hitting seven aces.

Federer broke in the second game at the second break point with a passing shot. Leading 4-1, Federer allowed Hewitt to escape another break point in the sixth game but Federer hit three straight aces and Hewitt held.

After the rain delay, Federer closed out the first set and broke Hewitt in the fifth game of the second set for a 3-2 lead. Hewitt won only four points after that, popping a service return beyond the baseline on match point.

The final was less memorable than Federer's semifinal victory over Marat Safin on Saturday when Federer won a record-tying 20-18 tiebreaker in the second set.

It was the third tiebreaker to reach 20-18 since the system started in 1970. It qualified tiebreaker victories by Bjorn Borg in a 1973 first round over Premjit Lal at Wimbledon and by Goran Ivanisevic against Daniel Nestor in the 1993 U.S. Open.

Federer and Hewitt also met in the finals of the U.S. Open with similar results, Federer winning 6-0, 7-6 (3), 6-0.

"I think he played better in the U.S. Open," Hewitt said. "It's hard to fault the way he played at the start of the Open. I don't think I've ever seen any one play that good. He had spots like that today."

The tournament final was reduced to best of three sets instead of best-of-five because of the threat of more rain.

## SPORTS



Favre guides Packers  
to game-winning FG,  
Page 30

# For Artest, season is a rap

## NBA suspends Pacer for year; 8 others punished

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Doling out some of the harshest penalties ever issued by the NBA, Commissioner David Stern banned nine players for a combined 143 games following a brawl in Michigan that embarrassed fans, players and officials alike.

The penalties were levied Sunday on players from the Indiana Pacers and Detroit Pistons. The most severe was for Indiana forward Ron Artest, who is out for the rest of the season.

"The line is drawn, and my guess is that won't happen again — certainly not by anybody who wants to be associated with our league," Stern said Sunday at a news conference at Madison Square Garden.

While coming down hard on the players, Stern also announced the league would review several procedures, from in-game security to alcohol sales, in order to establish a safer arena environment.

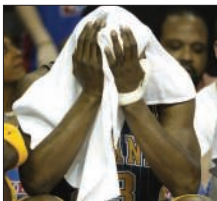


NBA Commissioner David Stern, left, suspended Pacers forward Ron Artest for the rest of the season for his role in Friday's brawl between players and fans in Auburn Hills, Mich.

"There is an element out there that thinks they can take certain liberties. That didn't used to be the case," Stern said. "We have to really begin anew to determine what that covenant of civil behavior in our arenas is going to be all about."

Pushing and shoving among players at Friday's game escalated into one of the worst fights in U.S. professional sports history when a fan threw a drink at Artest and he jumped into the stands, throwing punches.

Nine people were treated for injuries,



AP

and police are investigating possible criminal charges.

Indiana's Stephen Jackson was suspended for 30 games and Jermaine O'Neal for 25. Both players also threw punches at fans in the stands or on the court at the end of the nationally televised game at Auburn Hills, Mich.

Detroit's Ben Wallace — whose shove of Artest after a foul led to the five-minute fracas — drew a six-game ban, while Pacers guard Anthony Johnson got five games.

*"The line is drawn, and my guess is that won't happen again — certainly not by anybody who wants to be associated with our league."*

David Stern  
NBA commissioner

Four others drew one-game suspensions.

All the suspensions are without pay. Artest will lose approximately \$5 million in salary, while O'Neal's suspension will cost him nearly 25 percent of his \$14.8 million salary for the current season.

Reaction to the suspensions came quickly: Players union director Billy Hunter said the penalties were unduly harsh and vowed an appeal Monday. Artest issued a contrite statement in which he also questioned the length of his suspension. And O'Neal's agent released an angry missive accusing the league of singling out O'Neal without taking into concern the fear for their own safety that the players were feeling.

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## Busch refuses to be caught



AP photos

Kurt Busch waves a flag from his Ford as he takes a victory lap after winning the 2004 Nextel Cup Championship on Sunday at the Homestead-Miami Speedway. Busch finished fifth in the Ford 400 to clinch the title. Inset: Busch kisses his trophy after winning the Nextel Cup title in the closest points race in NASCAR history.

## 10th-ranked Arizona men get thumped in visit to Virginia

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